

STUDIO POLICY 2023-24
SALLY HODGES PIANO STUDIO
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“Learning to enjoy music through the study of piano is the goal of my piano studio: providing instruction in piano technique and repertoire, music theory and music literature for all ages and abilities of students.”

STUDIO OFFERINGS

- **Piano Lessons** are offered for elementary, high school, and adults.
- **Organ Lessons** are offered for those who have had a piano background of at least 3 years.
- **Group lessons** for students may be held periodically.
- **Competitions and Festivals** - National Federation of Music Teachers' Junior Festival, Omaha Music Teachers' Association activities, Nebraska Music Teachers' District Festival, Fall Festival
- **Recitals** – Spring Awards recital (May) and Christmas (December)
- **Music studio equipment:** two pianos, harpsichord, Johannus digital organ

CALENDAR

- **Regular teaching year:** nine months, from September through May
- **Summer lessons:** optional, scheduled according to vacations in June/July
- **Vacations:** Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas break, Memorial Day

TUITION AND FEES

- **Lesson Tuition Fee per month:**
One student: \$95.00 (30 minutes) \$145.00 (45 minutes) \$175.00 (one hour)
Family of two (discounted): \$170.00 (one hour)
- **Specially scheduled or single lessons: \$25.00 (1/2 hour); \$35.00 (3/4 hour); \$45.00 (one hour)**
- **Studio Fee - \$30.00 per single student or \$50.00 per family – paid once a year in September** at the beginning of fall lessons – covers recital expenses, awards, studio materials, and loan library.
- **Payment of lesson fees for the month is due on the first lesson of the month** (bill by email).
- **Tuition fees:** include private lessons and group lessons. Although the number of lessons per month may vary, the fee remains the same.
- **Payments are not refundable:** If a student withdraws from lessons during the month or misses lessons, no refunds will be made.
- **Fees for competitions and festivals:** If a student participates in any competition or festival that requires a fee, you will be billed for the fee.

MUSIC AND SUPPLIES

- **Music:** Students will need to purchase music for lessons at local music stores or online. You will be billed for any music purchased by the teacher; lesson books, theory books, repertoire books.
- **Metronomes:** should be purchased and used for practice, with instruction from teacher.

NEW STUDENTS, TRANSFER STUDENTS

- All new students or transfer students from other teaching studios will have an interview and a visit to my piano studio before starting lessons, in order to get acquainted with me and my program.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES AND MAKE-UP LESSONS

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend weekly lessons during the school year, as this is the time reserved for your lesson. A change in your lesson time may be requested, but it may not always be possible to reschedule. **Please notify me if student is unable to attend a lesson.**
- **Makeup Lesson Policy:**
 - **Forgotten lessons or last-minute cancellations will NOT be made up.**
 - **Inclement weather or teacher cancellation:** Makeup lessons will be offered for inclement weather or if teacher has to cancel a lesson.
 - **Sick Policy:** If a student has been ill or tests Covid positive within the 24 hours before a lesson, please do not send him/her to the lesson. Every attempt will be made to reschedule.
- **School Activities Policy:** Students who have school activities and need to miss a lesson: please contact me several days in advance to attempt rescheduling.
- **A 30- day notice** is required before termination of lessons.
- **Parents** are always welcome to attend lessons. Please call with questions or with any concerns.
- **Group lessons** may be held periodically throughout the year as part of the regular lesson cycle.

PRACTICE

- **Regular daily practice** is more beneficial than irregular practice several times a week. Students cannot progress in their music instruction without regular practice.
- **Suggested daily practice times (5 times a week):**
 - **Beginners:** 15 minutes; **Elementary:** 30 minutes; **Intermediate/Advanced:** 45 minutes.
- Teacher will check recorded practice times in the assignment book at the weekly lesson. Parental supervision of practice for young students is encouraged.

GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS OF STUDIO

- Students are expected to participate in the Spring Recital and are encouraged to participate in other recitals, a festival or competition, or school/ church performances during the year.
- Students are expected to bring to lessons all materials they are currently working on.
- Students are encouraged to attend other musical events in the community; school or church music programs, symphony concerts, etc. Participation in school band, orchestra, or choirs is encouraged.

TERMINATION OF LESSONS

- Students who begin the year are expected to finish the year, as this is a commitment. However, there are circumstances that may preclude terminating lessons: student's failure repeatedly to prepare for lessons; irregular in attendance; disruptive behavior or illness.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

- Master of Music Degree (piano) – University of South Dakota, 1997
- Certified Teacher of Music in Piano (Music Teachers' National Association)
- Organ-Service Playing Certificate (American Guild of Organists)
- Professional memberships: Omaha Music Teachers' Association, Music Teachers' National Association, Nebraska Federation of Music Teachers, American Guild of Organists, Association of Anglican Musicians.
- Twenty-five years teaching experience and operating a private music studio

