

THE PIANO STUDIO OF ERIN VANWINKLE

EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Revised 3.1.2014

TUITION:

Tuition is due on the first lesson of each month. Payments may be made in cash or check.

The rates are as follows:

30-minute lessons: \$80/month

45-minute lessons: \$120/month

60-minute lessons: \$160/month

LESSONS:

Students are expected to be present at their weekly scheduled lesson time with clean hands and neatly trimmed nails. Please do not arrive excessively early or late, as I teach in blocks, and will have a student immediately preceding or following your student. Please have your student remove their shoes outside the door – we don't wear shoes in our house. The student should walk right in without knocking, so as not to disturb a lesson in progress. Students may wait quietly on the couch until I am ready for them.

MATERIALS TO BRING TO LESSONS:

Lesson book

Theory book

Technique book, if applicable

Czerny exercise book, if applicable

Notebook (I will write his or her weekly assignments in this)

CANCELLATION:

If you know that your student will not be able to make a lesson, please let me know as far in advance as possible so I can plan accordingly. The only circumstance under which a makeup lesson will be scheduled is in the case of illness or emergency. Only one rescheduled lesson will be permitted per semester.

RECITALS:

The studio will hold two recitals each year: one at the end of the school year in May/June, and a Christmas recital in early December. All students and parents are expected to attend. Students will each play two pieces *from memory*. Using sheet music in the recital is not allowed.

Additionally, attendance at any recital or concert in which I perform is required.

Attendance at classical concerts outside of this is highly encouraged, but not required.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

Instrument: Students are expected to own an acoustic piano. A keyboard or digital piano may be used for the first three months of study, but a decent acoustic piano, which can be purchased for about \$500, must be acquired after that point.

Materials: Books are an additional cost to the student. When your student is in need of new books, I will notify you, and you will be able to add the cost of the books in with the next month's check.

Metronome: Students are required to own a metronome. There is a link to an online metronome on my website, and there are several free metronome apps available for iPhone and Android; any of these are acceptable if you do not wish to purchase a physical metronome.

PRACTICING:

Each student is responsible for practicing at home between lessons at least five days per week. Younger students may need extra reminders, or for the parent to sit with them.

Practicing should be an uninterrupted, focused block of time. Each student should practice each day for the duration of his or her lesson length. For example, a student who has a 30-minute lesson should practice for 30 minutes, 5 days per week. Students should refer to their notebooks throughout each practice session for specific instructions on how to practice. Consistent practice should be the rule, not the exception. *Anything other than regular, daily practice is unacceptable.* Students are expected to record their daily practice times in their notebooks.

HOW TO PRACTICE SUCCESSFULLY:

1. Set daily practice goals. What are you trying to achieve?
2. Work measure by measure, not page by page!
3. Start slowly, speed up gradually.
4. Don't practice an entire section just to clear up a tiny patch. Work on the tricky spot first.
5. Focus on all aspects of the music: notes, rhythm, dynamics, balance, shaping of the phrases.
6. Work with a metronome.
7. Count out loud.
8. Repetition is key! Practice each segment until you can play it several times without error.

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at erin@erinvanwinkle.com, or, in the case of an emergency, you can call or text me at (407) 506-7609.