

Piano Studio of Alla M. Morozova

Studio Policy Fall 2019– Spring 2020

*Please read this policy through in its entirety and keep it for future reference.
It has important information about your child's lessons.*

GENERAL INFORMATION

All children have music inside them, and most begin piano lessons because they want to experience the thrill of making music. Perhaps they have heard older siblings playing an instrument, or maybe they have been experimenting at the piano and have become excited at the sounds they have been able to make on their own. The goal of this studio is to create a musical environment at each lesson so that every child's individual potential can become realized. This is not only for the purpose of making music at the piano, but also so that every student can become a better, more self-confident independent learner of any subject matter.

The teaching studio is located in my home in Sleepy Hollow. Instruction consists of weekly private lessons in which repertoire, note reading, technique, practice skills, and musical literacy are emphasized. Lessons are generally thirty minutes in length, with forty-five and sixty minute lessons available for intermediate and advanced students, as well as motivated elementary students. There are two semesters during the school year: first semester (September – December) and second semester (January – June). Lessons are available Monday through Friday. There is also a Summer Session in July and August; summer lessons are scheduled on an ad hoc basis, and occur on various weekdays. Continuing students are expected to take at least three lessons in the Summer Session.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

It cannot be overstated: parental involvement, support, and assistance at times is crucial to your child's success in studying music. At the very least, most parents need to help children establish regular practice schedules and assist them in managing that schedule when exceptional events interrupt the routine. You may need to simply remind your child that "it is time to practice now"; this is normal and is sometimes necessary with even highly motivated students. Or, you may need to get more involved if regular effective practice is not taking place. With many children, parents will also have to help to make sure that the student arrives at lessons with all required materials ready to go, such as assignment books, music books, etc. An important byproduct of learning to play an instrument is the fun and pride in sharing that music with family and friends. Since most children enjoy sharing their musical accomplishments with people close to them, parents can be a supportive catalyst. The more interest that is shown and communicated to your children about their practice and playing, the better: Ask to hear their finished pieces; encourage them to play for their friends or at school, church, or synagogue when

possible; play the teacher duets along with them in their finished pieces if you know how to play.

PRACTICE AT HOME

Consistency is important in learning, especially in music study. Successful piano study requires consistent daily practice, from week to week, from month to month. Regular practice assures steady improvement of musicianship and skills. Students are enrolled with the understanding that they have access to a piano or an appropriate electronic keyboard in their home on which to practice. The practice environment at home should be quiet and free from the sounds of a TV, video game, or any other distracting sounds. Students usually get the most out of their practice if it is scheduled ahead of time, and is at the same time each day.

Suggested daily practice (including playing finished pieces), five or six days a week:

- *students in K & grade 1: at least 20 minutes a day (or 10 minutes twice a day)*
- *students in grades 2-5: at least 30-40 minutes a day (or 15-20 minutes twice a day)*
- *students in grades 6-9: at least 45 minutes a day*
- *students in grades 10-12: at least one hour a day*

MISSED LESSONS & MAKE-UP LESSON POLICY

One of the goals of this studio is for each student to experience the excitement of progress from week to week — the key to that is consistent practice and consistent attendance. If you must miss a lesson **due to illness or other unavoidable emergency**, please telephone, text or e-mail the studio by 10:00 AM the day of the lesson; if you know by the night before that your child is sick and will need to miss, I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible. **If such notice is given, the lesson will be made-up when it is missed for reasons of illness or personal emergency, but for no other reasons. No more than two make-up lessons for excused absences will be given at first semester and no more than three make-up lessons will be given at second semester.** Lessons missed by myself that are not already taken into consideration in the yearly schedule would also be made-up and will not be counted towards semester limit on make-up lessons.

For families with more than one child registered for lessons: If one child has an excused absence, that child's lesson can either be made-up, or the time can be added to the other child's lesson that day; let me know when you cancel how you would like it to be handled.

Make-up lessons occur during specially designated days during each semester. Make-up lessons must be done in the same semester the original lessons were missed; **they do not carry over to another semester.**

Please notice that missed lessons will not be made up for any other reasons except mentioned above. For example, lessons missed because of sports activities, family

vacations, school vacations, or lessons that are cancelled at the last minute for any reason, are not eligible to be made-up.

Please cancel the lesson by phone or text before 10 AM. That way, you are assured of being able to make-up the lesson later in the semester. **If you cancel the lesson after 10 AM (for any reason), it does not qualify to be made-up.**

TUITION & ENROLLMENT

Students enroll by the semester and are billed for tuition in monthly installments. Lesson type, lesson rate, amount of lessons in the semester and your lessons dates are included in the bill. Monthly payments are due by the first lesson of the month. Tuition bills are sent out via e-mail, so please let me know if your e-mail address changes during the course of a semester.

SEMI-ANUAL RECITALS

Our recitals are usually held on Saturdays at a local auditorium or church. The first semester recital is usually at mid-December and the second semester recital is at early June. **There is a \$10 per student Recital Fee for each event, which is charged in the month of the recital to all enrolled students, regardless of whether they choose to participate in the Recital or not (most usually do).** This fee covers the cost of renting the auditorium, having the auditorium piano tuned, programs, etc.

Both of these performance opportunities are an important part of your child's learning experience. Children develop increasing self-confidence when they perform well, and when they hear other children their age performing well. I encourage you to plan ahead in your calendar so that your child can attend and participate. Most students are usually well prepared for studio recitals. However, I reserve the right to not allow a student to perform in a studio event if I judge that he/she is not sufficiently prepared with adequate lead-time before the event.

PERFORMANCES NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE STUDIO

I encourage students to share their finished pieces with anyone and everyone! Performance opportunities around: at church or synagogue, talent shows at schools, etc. To make sure that students are successful in these performances, I request that families let me know about them with as much advance time as possible before committing to anything. That way, I can determine if there is sufficient lead-time for the student to be fully prepared (a few months is best), and so that I can help the student choose repertoire at an appropriate advancement level and length.