

Oil Piano Universe

Studio Policy

TUITION

Payment: Invoices must be paid by the first day of the month, to cover lessons for that month.

Four options are available:

1. \$130/month for 30 minute weekly lessons
2. \$183/month for 45 minute weekly lessons
3. \$235/month for 60 minute weekly lessons
4. \$80/student/month for 60 minute weekly Zoom group lessons (min. group size 4, max. 6)

Late Payments: If an invoice has not been paid by the first of the month, lessons will be discontinued. A discretionary 1-week grace period may be granted, under rare circumstances.

Disclaimer: Expect yearly increases to the above tuition amounts.

ATTENDANCE

Solo Lesson Make-ups: When missing a lesson, please give at least 24 hours of notice, when possible. Lessons will be made up at my discretion (I'm going to the mall with friends = bad excuse; I have bronchitis = good excuse). If you miss a make-up lesson, that lesson will be forfeited. Refunds are not an option.

Group Lesson Make-ups: If you miss your group lesson, you will not be given a make-up lesson, nor will you be refunded or given a credit for that lesson. If I need to cancel a group lesson, I will send a mini-lesson video. Then I will send some assignments, ask for videos of the completed assignments, and give personalized feedback to each group member.

***If you're sick, but still want a lesson, you may do a Zoom lesson. **Do not** come into the studio!

Holidays: Lessons on Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Year's Day will be cancelled and made-up.

Studio Class: This is a large group lesson that is held on the first Friday or Saturday of each month. It is mandatory for all who can attend. It will not be made up, as it is a supplemental student enrichment opportunity. It can, however, count as a make-up for an individual lesson, if you wish.

PERFORMANCES

Performances motivate students, demonstrate progress, and showcase individual artistry. Students who perform frequently tend to progress faster and enjoy studies more.

Recitals: At least two studio recitals per year are planned. Depending on work ethic, some students will be given an opportunity to perform solo recitals.

Arizona Study Program (ASP): This is a 12-level Arizona-based curriculum. Each year, students take a theory exam and perform for an adjudicator. The workload is structured and rigorous. It emphasizes common practice theory and Western art music.

Competitions: Students who enter these demonstrate a high level of discipline in their practice, concentration in their lessons, study in music theory and listening skills, comfortability in their performances, and creativity in their musical decisions.

***If you choose to enroll in ASP or a competition, lesson structure will change accordingly. Students who choose these paths and fail to meet expectations will be dropped from the program, and will resume regular lessons.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Parents: For K-12 students, most of their success depends on parental involvement. Here are some ways to help:

1. Provide an **appropriate instrument**. Concert pianists excel with 88-key acoustic pianos. Producers can excel with 61-key MIDI keyboards.
2. Provide **materials** to help with practicing and studying, including:
 - o **Metronome:** This magical musical clinical-strength Band-Aid makes amateur musicians into master musicians. It is not fun, but it is extremely effective.
 - o **Hard copies of music:** Most photocopying is illegal, and hard copies of books are motivational. Support the music industry!
 - o **Three-ring binder/sheet protectors:** If photocopies are necessary, this keeps materials organized, undestroyed, and not lost.
 - o **Smart phone/tablet:** Fun apps exist for numerous musical concepts. Incorporate app time into daily practice, so concepts need not be repeated in lessons.
 - o **Low-tech Games:** Not a smartphone fan? Music stores have board games, flashcards, toys and more to help reinforce musical concepts.
 - o **Internet access:** My website, theory/listening skills websites, YouTube, and more can enhance variety, efficiency, and effectiveness of practice time.
3. Set up a **productive learning environment**. Remove distractions near the piano, like food, clutter, dust/dirt, bad lighting, pets, loud noises, etc.
4. Set a **practice schedule**. Add practicing to daily chores and set a regular time of day.
5. Read the student's **practice assignments**.
6. Sit in on some lessons, and **learn with them**.
7. Make them **perform for you**.
8. **Read my emails carefully** for upcoming events and opportunities.
9. Motivate through **positive reinforcement, constructive criticism, and genuine interest**.
10. Communicate **concerns** to me about practicing and progress.
11. Be **consistent** with attendance.
12. **Work with me**. We're on the same team!

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

General:

1. **Practice** daily and thoughtfully. Most progress happens at home, not in the lesson.
2. Be **on time** and **prepared**. Save time by having books out, pages ready, etc. If late or unprepared, minutes lost are not made-up.
3. Use **resources**: Apps, websites, books, and more should be available to practice concepts outside of lessons. Use lesson time to learn new concepts, not to review old ones.
4. Be **creative**, and take **initiative**. Don't wait for me to tell you to do something. Be an explorer, bring me new questions every week, read new things every day, etc.

Lesson Etiquette:

1. Students should behave as they would in a typical classroom setting. This means no temper tantrums, rude attitude, destruction of property, etc.
2. No physical contact is allowed.

Recital Etiquette: Please adhere to the following rules for recitals:

1. Arrive 15 minutes early, so the recital can start on time.
2. Stay for the entire recital; support your fellow artists.
3. Dress accordingly; read emails carefully for these kinds of details.
4. Play what is planned. Ask beforehand if changes/additions are desired.
5. Get rid of distractions, *i.e.* silence phones, turn off flash/shutter sounds on camera, remove screaming babies, wake up snoring husbands, stop popping bubble wrap, etc.
6. Adhere to all guidelines of the performance venue.

Equipment: Any equipment the student damages, they must pay for.

Recordings/Photography: Students may be filmed or photographed for blog posts, advertising, presentations, or other professional material. Call or text to opt out.

CONTACT

Call or text at (631) 560-0789, or email at oillpianouniverse@gmail.com. Late night/early morning calls and texts may not be answered immediately. Email for less urgent matters.

DISCONTINUATION OF LESSONS

My choice: If students/parents fail to comply with the studio policy, they get one month to improve conditions. If expectations are not met, lessons terminate at the end of the month.

Student's choice: Please give one month of advanced notice. If stopping in the middle of a month without one month notice, tuition for the remainder of the month will not be refunded.

Please print or sign your name to confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to all of the matters outlined on this studio policy.

Student

Parent