

Information and Policies for the Libby Wiebel Music Studio

Reaching Me

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Studio location: Falls Church, VA 22041

Attendance and Payment Policies

Lessons are held weekly in my studio or in your home. Each student will be assigned a 45-minute period for his or her private lesson, and those whose lessons are in the studio will also have a 15-minute assigned computer time. During the school term (September through May), students will have 35 lessons, at least one recital, and, if eligible, the opportunity to participate in the National Federation of Music Clubs annual spring festival. Summer term runs June through August and the schedule will be announced late spring.

Tuition is paid in either monthly or quarterly installments with payments due on the first of the month. Payments received after the 1st of the month will be assessed a \$15 late fee. No make-up lessons will be given for missed lessons. Instead, students will only be billed for 33 of the 35 weeks in the school-term. This allows for two absences. However, students should feel free to attend all 35 lessons.

Termination of lessons by the student requires either one month's notice or one month's tuition. Students wishing to take extended periods of time off from lessons must continue to pay tuition or will forfeit their place in the studio and will be placed on the waiting list should they wish to return to lessons.

School term rates:

- (33 lessons @ \$33) + (9 months performance fee @ \$5) + (9 months technology fee @ \$3) + (9 months materials fee @ \$1) = \$1170 Total Base Tuition
- Monthly Payment: \$130
- Or Quarterly Payment: \$390 (due on Sept. 1, Dec. 1, and March 1)

Summer term rates will be announced in the spring.

Additional fees may apply:

- \$10/month driving fee per family for in-home lessons
- \$10/month fee per student for Ensemble Club participation

Music

Students must own all music that they will use on a regular basis. I will not accept or use photocopied music. I will purchase books for students or communicate with parents about books that a student will require. Music purchases I make for the student will be billed quarterly or as needed. Certain books for sight reading, ensembles, or group lessons may be borrowed from my music library.

Equipment

In addition to music, students will need:

- A well-tuned piano. The best time to tune is annually, after the heat has been turned on in the fall. A second tuning may be necessary for some pianos and should be done after the air conditioning has

been turned on for the summer. An electric piano is acceptable so long as it has 88 full-size, weighted, and touch sensitive keys. Unless special arrangements are made with me, I request that students not play an electric keyboard as their primary practice instrument.

- Access to a CD player near the piano so that we might use accompaniment CD's that frequently come with the lesson books.
- A metronome. Once students have completed their first set of lesson books, I require that they own a metronome. Though I am not requiring that students own a metronome before completion of their first books, I am strongly encouraging it. I will be using a metronome in lessons, and the best reinforcement will be its use at home.

Practice and Assignments

Students must practice regularly. I will try to assign enough music to fill an appropriate practice period, but as a rough estimate, I would recommend the following practice schedule:

- First year students – 15 minutes, 5 times a week (or 75 minutes/week)
- Elementary students – 20-30 minutes, 5 times a week (or 100 – 150 minutes/week)
- Intermediate students – 30-45 minutes, 5 times a week (or 150 – 225 minutes/week)
- Advanced students – 60-90 minutes, 5 times a week (or 300 – 450 minutes/week)

All students will also be given weekly written assignments. An important part of learning a musical instrument is being able to read and write in the musical language. These weekly written assignments usually come from workbooks or lesson books and reinforce what we've covered in lessons that particular week. Students will also receive regular computer assignments. These may be completed at home or on my studio computer. Computer assignments will often require access to the internet.

It is essential that parents are involved in helping students to schedule practice time. The younger a student is, the more assistance they will need with structuring their practice. Parents should read students' assignment notebooks weekly and be aware of all practice assignments and written assignments.

Recitals and Festivals

No matter what age or level, performance is very important for the pianist. I will attempt to provide adequate opportunities for all students to perform throughout the year. Information will be sent home as opportunities approach. I request that if possible, all students play in recitals. Typically our studio has the following performances:

- December Christmas Party (students perform holiday music)
- February Formal Recital
- Spring Piano Party

Spring, especially, is a time for music festivals. I will gladly help prepare students who are interested and eligible for music festivals, talent shows, or any other performances that might arise. If you are interested, please bring any information to me as soon as possible.

I regularly have students participate in the National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC) annual spring festival. Students enter at various levels and prepare two pieces to be performed, memorized, before two judges. The judges rate the performances and give constructive comments. After several years of participating, students accumulate enough points from their ratings to earn gold cups. Students who have completed basic staff reading are eligible to participate. Registration occurs in late fall, and the festival happens mid-spring. Students can enter in a variety of categories including piano solo, piano duet, vocal solo, guitar solo, and written theory testing. If you are interested, please speak to me as soon as possible.

Ensemble Club

The Ensemble Club has been a vision of mine for some time now. I am hoping that 2009-10 might be the year we get it off the ground. Members will be matched with duet or other ensemble partners and will learn piano pieces for 4, 6, or 8 hands. These ensembles will be presented at studio parties and recitals and can be entered as events in the NFMC spring festival. Club members will meet twice monthly for individual and group instruction. It is during club meeting time that students will be able to practice with their ensemble partners. Note that ensemble music is assigned in addition to regular lesson material and will require extra practice time.

Voice and Guitar Lessons

In the last couple of years, I have begun to do limited instruction in beginning voice and guitar. While I am primarily a pianist and piano teacher, I am open to working with students in these other areas. Please speak to me if you are interested.