



Studio of Maria Dell'Orefice



Philosophy

As a teacher, I play many roles. I am of course an educator, but to my students, I am also a mentor and a friend. Through this unique one-on-one relationship, I strive to foster within my students a will to grow and an outlet for expression. I believe that this relationship is paramount in a student's life in order to allow them to exhibit the benefits of music both in work ethic and in their personal lives. Music lessons are a place to learn both the simplicities and the complexities of music but also to learn about ourselves. Through music is how I learned to express myself and, for my students, I wish the same. They will learn how to translate emotions through sounds, and they will learn what encourages them to work harder. Because of this, I encourage in my students an open mind and the desire to improve.

Expectations

I expect all of my students to purchase necessary materials for their individual practicing as well as for our weekly lessons together.

This includes:

- Metronome
- Required exercise and method books, TBD
- Lined spiral notebook to take notes in
- Pencil(s) with an adequate eraser
- Tote bag to carry all materials (if coming to my residence)

In addition, I expect that my students will be practicing on a daily basis with the encouragement of his/her parents. 10-45 minutes a day is sufficient based on age/level. Practicing a little bit every day is preferable to larger time slots spread throughout the week.

As far as accompanying friends/family members during lessons, there should be silence during lessons. There should not be any visual or audible disruption to the lesson.

Attendance

Students are expected to have weekly lessons at the same time every week. If a lesson must be missed, 24 hours' notice is required by email or by phone. This saves me from unexpected surprises and allows me to fill that spot with another student if necessary. Makeup times for missed lessons will be agreed upon between teacher and parent. In case of an emergency where 24 hours' notice is not possible, a makeup lesson can still be scheduled.

Payment will not be refunded for any lessons missed. Regardless of a student's attendance, I will still be at the studio during that time - it is my time that is being accommodated. It is therefore up to the parent/student to schedule a makeup lesson if they so choose.

In the case of lessons taking place at the student's residence, payment for lessons is still required if the lesson is cancelled. If the parent/student decides to schedule a makeup lesson (if the lesson was cancelled with more than 24 hours' notice), the makeup lesson will not require payment.

Discontinuing Lessons

If a student wishes to discontinue lessons at any time, a two-week notice is required. During the two weeks after the date in which notice is given, lessons will still be charged to the student whether the student attends the following two lessons or not. This is my job so a loss of a student means a loss in my salary. If a student wishes to discontinue, there will be full understanding on my part with respect of the student's decision.

If necessary, I will determine if a discontinuation of lessons is most appropriate for a student based on age and/or lack of determination to practice.

Statement of Photo/Video Release (optional)

As an active teacher, I would like to take occasional pictures and/or videos of certain interactions with my students in lessons and recitals. From time to time, I post these pictures and videos to my website in order to promote my own studio as well as to serve as a resource for other piano teachers. If you permit my use of images and recordings of your child on social media, please sign below. Students will only ever be identified by first name.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read the studio policy and I understand and agree to its conditions.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The best way to contact me is by email or by cell phone any day between 9am and 6pm.