



2011 – 2012 Morris Music Studio Policy & Information

PHILOSOPHY

I strongly believe that private lessons should be fun, creative and structured toward the individual student. If a student is struggling in a particular area, I prepare their lessons to help them understand and motivate them to improve in that area. Although a student cannot be forced to enjoy lessons, I make an effort to construct their lessons and learning experience in a positive manner to help encourage them to be motivated on their own. With 27 years of music experience and extensive training in the music education field, I enjoy teaching private lessons from my studio.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Lessons are offered in weekly 30 minute time slots. Each student is given the opportunity to learn at their own pace and develop their individual skills. Each lesson can include additional time to use the music learning lab. Computer lab time can be scheduled immediately before or after the private lesson. This works especially well when there are 2 students from the same family arriving at the same time.

PRACTICE

Practicing can be fun! Each student will learn and progress at their own rate, but I strongly encourage a regular scheduled time to practice each day. This will help students to establish good practice and learning habits. Just as with athletics and training, music cannot be learned by long “cramming” sessions the day before a lesson, but must be practiced regularly throughout the week to achieve steady progress and retention. See below for suggested lengths of time for practicing:

Young/Beginning Students:	approximately 15 min daily
2 - 4 Year Students:	30 min daily
More than 4 Years:	45 – 60 min a day

ASSIGNMENT BINDER

All students will receive a personalized binder at their first lesson. This binder includes a practice calendar, pages I write detailed lesson assignments on, and other supplemental materials. At the end of each practice session, please record your practice time on the calendar in the binder. Do not wait until the end of the week or at the beginning of your lesson to do so. Please **be honest** in recording the correct amount of time practiced each week.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Please be on time - your lesson will not be extended if you are late. When arriving, quietly enter and come into the studio (no need to knock or ring bell). If the previous student is still there, please wait quietly on the window seat of the stairwell. Cars may be parked on the far left side of the driveway or on the street.

PAYMENT TERMS

Monthly tuition is non-refundable and due the first lesson of each month (\$25 per lesson). A detailed invoice will be sent home with the student a week prior to each new month. They will also

be posted under the log-in portion on the website along with the option to pay via Pay Pal. Checks should be made out to **CMX**. Any returned checks will be charged a \$15 service fee. Your payment is holding a scheduled time slot each week for a lesson. If a lesson is missed, no make-up will be available. On the occasion that I have to miss a lesson, a credit will be given for the following month.

LATE FEES AND NON PAYMENT

Payment is past due on the 15th of the month and will result in a \$5.00 late fee per week thereafter. If no payment is received after 4 weeks, the student will no longer receive lessons until the situation is resolved.

VACATIONS AND HOLIDAYS

If notified in advance, payment will not have to be made for missed lessons due to family vacations (such as Spring Break and during the summer months). I also do not charge for lessons that occur on or during major holidays (Easter, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day). I do teach on all other holidays, whether kids have school that day or not (such as Presidents Day, Veteran's Day and Columbus Day). If students are out of school on a lesson day, I give the option to have the lesson in the morning, if desired. If you are not sure whether I am teaching on a certain day or not, please refer to the online music studio calendar under the log-in tab.

ACADEMIC YEAR

The academic year includes weekly lessons from August 1, 2010 through June 1, 2011

There will be no lessons on the following dates:

2011	July 4	Independence Day
	September 5	Labor Day
	October 31	Halloween
	November 21 - 26	Thanksgiving Week
	December 19 –	
2012	January 6	Christmas & New Year's Break
	May 28	Memorial Day

COST OF LESSON MATERIALS

Materials such as method books and enrichment supplements will be received during lessons and a charge will be added to the next month's invoice. This will help alleviate shopping stress and confusion for the parents, and will be provided tax-free. Most books range from \$4.95 to \$8.95 each. Students will generally be working in 4 books at a time. A metronome will be required for students when they have reached a certain level.

MUSIC LEARNING LAB

The studio includes a computer equipped with music education software and Finale music composition and notation software. The Learning Lab provides independent musical activities that range from theory and ear training games to composition. Headphones are available so students will not interfere with other students' lessons. If a student is interested in using the music learning lab, time may be scheduled before or after the lesson. If the lab is used, students will be given assignments to work on. The computer is **for music related activities only**, and students are **not to disturb the lesson in progress**. Students must abide by the rules or they will lose their lab privileges.

PIANO STUDENTS

Beginning piano students are started in the Alfred series of method books. The student will work out of 4 main books: Technique, Lesson, Theory, and Recital. These books enhance the student's learning and provides a thorough presentation of music material. Flashcards, composition, duets and other materials may be used to strengthen concepts already learned and help enrich students' musical experience. Students are welcome to bring other books or solo pieces they own to work on in lessons as well. As students advance, Hanon exercises, scales, arpeggios, Piano Literature and other materials will be added.

TRUMPET STUDENTS

Trumpet students will be introduced to the Rubank method books as well as etudes, duets, trios, sheet music and other enrichment pieces. Music theory will be taught as the student progresses as well as the more advanced book, Arban's Complete Conservatory Method for the Trumpet (a.k.a. "The Trumpet Bible).

HEALTHY STUDENTS

It is my intent to protect students from germs while they are having their lessons, and piano keys can be a source of germ contamination. There will be hand sanitizer available to use before each lesson. Students who miss school for any health reason should also miss their lessons that day. Students who arrive obviously sick will be refused a lesson that day.

RECITALS

There will be 2 recitals held annually: Spring and Fall. This will be an opportunity for family and friends to enjoy the students' performance and see how much they have learned and progressed. This will also provide a concert atmosphere for the student to perform in and gain experience playing in front of an appreciative audience. Students will perform works they have practiced in lessons, develop performance skills, audience etiquette, perform piano ensembles, duets & learn to implement artistic expression. Custom programs, graphics and certificates are created for each recital and student. There is no additional cost for the Recitals.

At the recitals students will receive awards and recognition of achievement for advancement, progress and individual performance. Students are encouraged to dress appropriately for studio performances.

PERFORMANCE EVENTS

Students are encouraged to share their music in the community through public performances. Events will occasionally be scheduled. Please check the website calendar and blog for information regarding these events. Some students may have opportunities for judged performances and competitions each year. Deadlines and details for events will be sent home with students as well as listed in the blog and calendar on the website.

STUDIO WEBSITE

www.morrismusicstudio.net

The studio website contains information regarding current studio events, dates, information on the studio and teacher, a log-in area families can view performance videos, invoices, make payments, and stay current on studio happenings. The blog spotlights students as they progress, perform at various events and lists performances the teacher is involved in as well. Visit the website often as it is updated regularly. Share the website with family & friends who can view photo galleries, the blog and current events.