

the OpenScore

happy practicing!

STUDIO HANDBOOK

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY - 2

LESSON MATERIALS- 3

PRACTICE AND A LESSON
EXPECTATIONS - 4

LESSON FEES- 5

MISSED/ CANCELLED
LESSONS - 6

ONLINE LESSON
TROUBLESHOOTING - 7

BEGINNER FAQ - 8



WELCOME!

TO THEOPENSORE STUDIO

Whether you are a new or returning student, I am so excited to welcome you to my music studio!

I am thrilled to be a part of your musical journey, and I look forward to helping you through your lessons!

Inside this handbook you'll learn about my teaching philosophy, what you can expect in your lessons, and answers to frequently asked questions!

Thank you for being a part of the studio, I'm so glad you're here!

MY TEACHING PHILOSOPHY



My teaching philosophy is a holistic approach to learning music that closely aligns with my research experiences and my own professional experience as a performer and pedagogue. I believe that every student requires an individual approach tailored to their own individual learning style. My goal as your teacher is to provide you with the tools you need to become independent on your musical journey.

MIND AND BODY CONNECTION With the holistic approach to music, my lessons develop the physical and mental side of "how" to play. Together, we'll explore mindfully developing the physical and mental tools needed for healthier technique, problem solving, accessing greater depths of musicality, creating healthier mindsets or habits, or removing the barriers between you, your music and performing.

ALL ROUNDED MUSICIAN You are more than your instrument. In addition to learning to become technically fluid, lessons can also include learning

- music theory
- music history
- musicianship skills such as sight reading, sight singing, ear training

All these aspects will help to unlock and develop your individual musicality and mastery.

GAIN CONFIDENCE AND INDEPENDENCE No matter your level of playing, my lessons will help you become an independent learner and musician. We will explore the big picture before breaking down all the steps to acquire your new technical or musical skill. During that process, you will learn how to practice so you can be prepared for your next lesson.

I AM HERE FOR YOU! I hope to empower and bring positivity to all musicians - whether beginner or advanced - so that they will have a fulfilling relationship with themselves and their music!



WHAT DO YOU NEED FOR PIANO LESSONS?

EQUIPMENT

General Materials

- Piano (preferred) or a keyboard with 88 weighted keys and pedal attachment
- Binder/duo-tang for stray exercises/sheet music
- Music lesson books/ Music Scores
- Metronome or a Metronome App
- Pencil and Eraser (at home)
- Optional: notebook to record your homework (homework book)

Online Equipment (Lessons are taught through Zoom)

- phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop Computer (the larger the screen, the better the experience will be)
- Scanner to scan in Theory (Adobe scan is a great app to use if you don't have a scanner)
- Headphones
- Good internet connection
- Access to Google documents
- Optional: additional webcams, external mic (recommendation: Blue Yeti)

"If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you" - Zig Ziglar

PRACTICE AND LESSON EXPECTATIONS

PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS:

Your progress is directly correlated with efficient and consistent practising. Thus, it is necessary you to have a piano at home to practice and learn on and in an environment that is free of distraction (ie. no television, excessive noise, etc).

- Minimum of 15-60 minutes per practice session
- 5-7 days of practice each week
- Appropriate practice plans will be discussed, and are tailored to the student's musical and personal goals.

LESSONS EXPECTATIONS:

1. Student is expected to be prepared for each lesson to the best of their ability.
2. Please be on time for every lesson with all you materials. As lessons are generally scheduled back to back so the student arrives late, the lesson time will not be extended past its originally scheduled end time, and the lesson fee will not be prorated.

TEACHER DISCRETION

- If a student is showing a continuous lack of preparation, practicing, or respect for my time and energy over the course of several weeks, the teacher reserves the right to terminate lessons.
- If a student comes to a lesson without their assigned materials or did not practice, the student may be dismissed from the lesson. No refunds will be issued.

WHAT IF I WANT TO STOP TAKING LESSONS?

Discontinue lessons

Should the teacher or student wish to discontinue lessons, at least 1 week notice must be given. If less than 1 week notice is given, then the upcoming lesson is considered as a missed class and will not be refunded. Any remaining fee for classes that will not be attended due to termination of lessons will be returned back to the student.



LESSON FEES

How much are Lessons?

Lessons are offered **weekly** in **30, 45, 60 minute sessions at \$60 USD/hour+Transfer fees (\$2.50)**. Lessons can also be offered bi-weekly monthly, ad hoc etc which can be decided between the teacher and student.

How are Lesson Fees Accepted?

Online Students: PayPal or E-transfer

In-Person Students: E-transfer, cash, Cheque

When are Lesson Fees Due?

Lessons are paid, in advanced, for on a month-to-month basis where payment is due at the **first lesson of each month via e-transfer or PayPal** .

Example: You are taking weekly lessons in January every Wednesday. There are 5 Wednesdays in January but you will be missing the last Wednesday of that month. Thus, only attending for 4 lessons. Your lesson fee of 4 lessons will be due at the beginning of the month, BEFORE your first Wednesday lesson.

Late Fee Submissions

Continual late payments that occur more than twice a year may be subjected to a late fee penalty of \$10.00.

"You can't teach people everything they need to know. The best you can do is position them where they can find what they need to know when they need to know it" - Seymour Papert

WHAT HAPPENS IF I NEED TO MISS A LESSON?

Missed/Cancelled Lessons

It is integral and encouraged that students consistently attend their lessons in order to make sufficient progress. However, it is understandable that sometimes lessons will have to be missed.

When are make up lessons offered or not offered due to the student's cancellation?

A make up lesson is offered due to a student's cancellation if:

1. **At least 24 hours of advance notice is given BEFORE your lesson**

A make up lesson is NOT offered if:

1. **No Advance notice is given for except for illness, emergency, and situations beyond your control**

2. **No-Show:** The student does not show up within 10 minutes of their lesson or more, and no advance notice is provided. The lesson is considered a "no-show" and will not be made up, refunded, or credited to the next month regardless of the reason.

**the teacher reserves the right to refuse to offer make up lessons if they feel that this privilege is being taken advantage of*

Make up lessons options:

1. the missed lesson is replaced with an online lesson at the usual lesson time or at a mutual time within the billed month depending on the studio's availability
2. the missed lesson is replaced with a video lesson: the student will send a video of their playing and the teacher will send response videos and/or written comments will be sent electronically
3. the missed lesson is held as a credit for the next month

What happens if a rescheduled lesson is missed/cancelled?

- If the teacher misses a rescheduled lesson after it has been scheduled – the teacher and student will discuss which of the 3 make up lesson options will work best for both individuals
- If the student misses a rescheduled lesson after it has been scheduled – the lesson will be charged in full. It will not be rescheduled, refunded, replaced by a video exchange, or credited to the next month.



WHAT IF MY ONLINE LESSONS EXPERIENCE TECHNICAL ISSUES?

Internet Connection and Technical Difficulties

In an ideal world, internet connection and technology will always be smooth and constant. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. Internet connection can be unpredictable but a few minutes of disruption will not often cause issues during a lesson.

However, if the lesson is heavily compromised due to internet connectivity or technical difficulties, the following alternatives will be provided on a case by case basis, and with discussion with the student:

- A video lesson will replace the lesson or parts of the compromised lesson. The student and/or teacher will exchange videos and/or comments will be written in their Google document
- The lesson will be made up by rescheduling within the billed month at a mutual time
- The lesson will be considered as “cancelled” and the lesson fee will be held as credit for the next month.

*"People do not decide their futures. They decide their habits and their habits decide their futures."
- F.M. Alexander*

WHAT IF I'M A BEGINNER? WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

What if I've Never Had Lessons before?

That's not a problem! Whether you're an absolute beginner or an advanced musician, I've got you! In the first lesson we'll devise a plan that works for you and start with the basics of navigating the piano, posture, and start foundational technique. We'll go at your pace!

What if I feel like I don't have time for this?

Piano Lessons are definitely a financial and time investment. Having weekly lessons and juggling a daily practice routine between lessons can sound overwhelming! Don't fret, we'll work together to create a lesson and practice plan that will fit you and your goals. Learning an instrument can be a very fulfilling life skill that translates far beyond the lessons. The skills you get to explore through piano lessons such as creativity, self expression, discipline, and critical thinking, translate into every aspect of life. As with many things in life the adage "Anything worth doing is worth doing well" applies.

What if I don't know if I can be prepared for the next lesson?

That's okay! While you have music to practice over the week, perfection is not the expectation. What I am expecting is a show of progress and enjoyment through commitment to practice over the week. Music is not like math where you get homework, cram, and submit. Music is more like a dance class where you learn a foundational skill, apply it to a dance routine, and work with through and practice it with your dance instructor. However much is covered in class is what you bring home to gain comfort with. Then in the next lesson, we'll do a little review, check your progress, and build from there.

I seriously didn't practice this week, should I just skip this lesson?

It's understandable that we all get bogged down with work and life. Sometimes we just can't find the time to practice. 9 times out of 10, I would recommend going to your lesson anyways- but let me know you didn't get the chance to practice! Sometimes that lesson is the only time you'll get with your instrument and that's okay. Coming to lessons helps maintain the habit of commitment and keeps the momentum going. The lesson can serve as review, practice time, and will give me a change to see more clearly how you learn. We can then dive more deeply into how to practice effectively and efficiently so that you can make use of the time you have. If you're really unsure whether it's worth either of our time, let me know and we'll decide together.