

# JD MUSIC STUDIO POLICIES

*"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent." –Victor Hugo*

## Weekly Lessons

Each month the student will receive 4 lessons per month, one (1) lesson each week.\* A lesson will be rescheduled if the student is sick, or if specific arrangements are made at least 48 hours in advance. If a contact is not made 48 hours in advance (for a reason other than sickness), the lesson will not be rescheduled or made up. We always do our best to accommodate each student's schedule, but we do ask that the student make their lesson time a priority and not schedule other activities or appointments during the lesson time. If a student arrives late to a lesson, the time will not be made up.

In the case of teacher absence, the lesson will be made up or a qualified substitute will teach the lesson.

If there are five weeks in the month on the regular lesson day, usually the lesson will still be offered. This way an extra lesson is "banked" for times that either the teacher or student is absent.

The student should bring the current sheet music to **every** lesson. Please make sure that the teacher has a copy of the sheet music.

\*For students that meet me at schools, there may be certain circumstances in which 4 lessons a month is not possible due to non-school days. Tuition will remain the same. See the Tuition Schedule for more details. The regular travel fee is waived due to this circumstance.

## Showcases

There are two (2) showcases each year. The Winter Showcase is held in December the Spring Showcase is held in May or June. I believe that music is enjoyed personally but also meant to be shared. It is important that students prepare well in advance for the showcase and not wait until the last weeks to do a majority of the practice. In the months of performances, students will receive three (3) lessons and will participate in the showcase—which will count as a lesson. If a student chooses not to perform (not recommended) they will still be expected to attend, and the showcase will still be counted as a lesson. Please talk to Janine if you believe an exception needs to be made for the individual student.

## Other Performance Opportunities

*Sip and Share:* This is a performance opportunity for adult students. Students gather at Janine's home where we share music and food together. Held 2-3 times a year.

*Comrade Class:* This is usually held to be a sort of dress rehearsal before a Showcase, Audition, or Solo and Ensemble. Students perform for each other and give each other helpful and encouraging feedback.

*NATS Auditions:* A yearly vocal competition held by the NATS Organization. See NATS.org for more information. Available to all ages.

*Solo and Ensemble:* Available to high school students and sometimes middle school students. A music competition offered through the public schools.

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## Membership Tuition (see Tuition & Fees form for more detailed information)

\$160/month for 30 minute lessons/student\*

\$235/month for 45 minute lessons/student\*

\$310/month for 60 minute lessons/student\*

\*Each month that you pay on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, you receive \$10 off the tuition price! (please see Tuition Schedule for more information)

## Stopping Lessons

Lessons are ongoing unless a specific agreement has been made. If you are unable to continue lessons, *you must give 30 days notice in writing **before** stopping lessons. If 30-days notice is not given, tuition for the 30 days will still be charged to the financially responsible party.*

## Contract

Please fill out a financial/policy contract and return it to Janine

## Practice/Journaling

Daily practice is essential to the success of learning. Since lessons only occur once a week it is imperative that you visit musical and technical concepts with your body and mind frequently in between lessons, if you want to see progress. Practice amounts will be slightly different for every student, but a good general rule is to plan a daily practice routine in which you can practice 30-60 minutes.

Each student will be expected to keep a practice journal. After each lesson, a summary of the lesson and goals for the week are to be written in the journal and are expected to be sent to Janine within 24 hours of the lesson. Throughout the week, you will write in your journal about each practice session. For further instructions, please see "JDMS: How to Keep a Journal."

## Assessment and Results

Signs improvement for voice students will include but are not limited to 1) control of breathing, tone quality 2) understanding of how the voice functions 3) ease and flexibility of singing 4) Increased range 5) Expression of text 6) Development of vibrato 7) In-tune singing

Signs of improvement for piano students will include but are not limited to 1) ability to correctly execute technical exercises such as scales and arpeggios 2) ability to read music fluently 3) ability to play increasingly difficult repertoire 4) ability to understand music theory and how it relates to the piano.

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After each performance, the student will fill out a self-assessment form and discuss it with the teacher. There will be informal evaluations along the journey of learning as well.

It is my sincere belief that, through weekly instruction, thoughtful reflection, and daily practice, steady improvement in skill and artistry will occur. You will be happy with the results!

