

Rebekah Soued String Studio

Studio Policy

2024–25 Academic Year

Lessons

Lessons are open to students of all ages and abilities, granted they show the desire and dedication to work hard and progress. As a violin instructor, I want to inspire my students with my passion for the instrument and for music. I will show my students the limitless worlds where music can take them. I will show them how the lives of others and themselves can be touched in a very profound way by. I will encourage my students to reach for the stars, while also providing honest and constructive feedback that will make them sound in their technique and will help them reach their goals.

Tuition

Rates

30 min - \$35

45 min - \$52

60 min - \$70

Tuition is billed per-semester and is due in full the last week of the prior semester. If tuition is not received by the due date, a \$25 late fee will be incurred. Tuition for the Fall and Spring semester is based on a 16-week term (15 weeks of lessons and 1 week for makeup lessons). For the Summer session, a minimum of 6 lessons are required, but with flexible scheduling. This ensures the students a spot for the fall semester.

If a student needs to withdraw from the studio within the first six weeks of lessons, 50% of the semester tuition will be reimbursed. After week six, no tuition will be refunded. For summer lessons, no refund will be given if a student decides to stop lessons after the session begins. Pro-rated tuition will only be offered to new incoming students.

Additional Fees

Recital Fee: \$30 – to be paid with both Fall and Spring tuition.

Makeup Policy

I offer one makeup per semester, but only in the case of symptomatic illness of the student. However, if I have to cancel your lesson for any reason, I will make that lesson up during scheduled makeup days at the end of the semester, or as an extra session prior to the end of the term if no makeup week is scheduled. All makeups must be completed by the end of the semester and cannot be carried forward into a subsequent semester.

Sickness

Zoom lessons are always available to students, and I encourage you to take advantage of them if there is anyone in the household showing symptoms of illness. Please do not come to the studio if you are feeling ill, even if you feel well enough for a lesson. Also, if the flu or other more serious illness is going around your household, please inform me before coming to lessons, so we can make a decision if it's better to do a zoom lesson or makeup.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, poor road conditions, or my own sickness, I may switch to Zoom lessons for a given day or week. I'll make that announcement via email no later than 9am the day of your lesson. Therefore, please check your email when heavy snow is in the forecast. If you can't get to a computer at your scheduled lesson time for Zoom I will work with you on a different solution for that week.

If you are travelling during the semester, Zoom lessons are an option for you while out of town but need to happen during your normally scheduled lesson time.

Tardiness

The parent/student must contact the teacher if they expect to be late for a scheduled lesson. If a student arrives after their scheduled lesson time has begun, the teacher will complete the lesson in the remaining portion of the time slot.

Accompanists

An accompanist will be provided for group classes and for the group recital. Accompanists for solo performances, competitions, book recitals, and associated rehearsals are the responsibility of the student. Accompanists are expensive, and rehearsals are time consuming, but working with a professional musician other than me is a critical part of a student's training.

Group Class

While group class is not mandatory, I very strongly encourage students to sign up. Group class is a wonderful and essential way to build confidence by playing with and for peers, learn ensemble skills, and learn theory. I have found that students participating in group class are more confident and have greater purpose in their playing than those who do not participate.

Group class generally meets weekly on Thursdays. If a student misses more than 3 classes, I may ask them not to participate in the group recital. Group class is billed by the semester and no makeups or reimbursements will be given if a student misses a class/classes.

Cost: \$15 a class

Studio Communications

Studio information and updates of all sorts will be sent out via email, including group emails and individual emails. It is particularly important for those parents not attending their students' lessons to check email regularly to be sure you are receiving group and individual emails.

Studio Requirements:

- **Regular practice** is defined for the purposes of this policy as a daily practice session of at least the same length as your lesson at least 6 days a week. For young beginners, I recommend starting with 5 minute practice sessions spread throughout the day, then gradually growing to a 30 minute practice in Suzuki Book 1.
- **Daily listening** to the Suzuki recordings is required to help students grow and progress.
- **Group class** is strongly recommended for all students until graduation from book 5. After book 5 students are required to participate in at least one of the following: Advanced ensemble within the studio, the San Juan Youth Symphony, and/or to support their school orchestra where one exists.
- **Semester recitals** will be held at the end of the fall and spring semesters in which all students are required to participate.
- **Book recitals** are required of all students through book 5 in order to advance from one book to the next. Book recitals consist of all or most of the pieces in that book and may include additional repertoire or chamber music as arranged with me. These are formal performances, most repertoire should be memorized and must be performed with an accompanist.
- **Parent attendance** at lessons and group classes, and parent participation in regular practice sessions is required unless discussed with me. (generally up to about age 12 and/or book 4)
- **Participation in summer festivals** is strongly encouraged
- **Enrollment** in all 3 semesters each year is required to hold your place in the studio. (Fall, Spring, Summer)
- **Summer sessions** will consist of a minimum of 6 lessons which can be scheduled on a flexible basis anytime between the end of the spring semester and the beginning of the fall semester. Exceptions to this can be made if students are enrolled in multi-week summer music festivals. The makeup policy is more flexible in the summer to allow for changing activities and summer travel plans, but I must have 24 hours notice to change or cancel a lesson and all lessons must be completed prior to the start of the fall semester.

Housekeeping

- Please plan on arriving at your lesson no more than 5 minutes before your scheduled time, unless we have already arranged for an earlier lesson time.

- If you are dropping off/picking up your student from lessons, please arrive on time to pick them up.
- Please do not let students bring food, drinks (other than water), or chewing gum into lessons. Parents, I am fine if you would like to bring tea or coffee into lessons.

Photography/Filming/Recordings

By enrolling in Rebekah Soued String Studio each student/parent/guardian gives consent for the student to be photographed and/or recorded while participating in studio events including but not limited to lessons, group classes, recitals, and the process of auditioning for competitions, area recitals, special events, and festivals. Soued String Studio reserves the right to use any and all images, video, or sound recordings for record keeping, pedagogical, or marketing purposes that may include but are not limited to: studio records, social media, correspondence with colleagues, studio website, newsletters, press releases, collateral materials, and advertisements.

Parent or legal guardian, please sign and return the studio policy acknowledgement on the following page.

I have read the 2024/2025 Rebekah Soued String Studio Policy and I understand and will
comply with all the above stated policies and procedures.

Parent or Guardian Signature_____

Date:_____

Print Parent or Guardian Name_____

Print Student name_____

Lesson Day and Time:_____

Total Tuition and fees:_____

Tuition and fees paid in full:

Date:

Check number: