

# PLAY FOR FUN, LEARN FOR LIFE



## MME Student Welcome Packet

### What We Do in Lessons:

- Through progressively difficult repertoire, we learn *musicianship* for life-long enjoyment: instrument technique, rhythm & flow, music literacy & history, composition/songwriting & improvisation, stage presence & focused listening, plus an abundance of additional life skills for young people: self-confidence, teamwork/independence, & discipline, for example. We use a variety of teaching materials based on student interest & goals.
- You will have the opportunity to perform 2-3x each year at our studio recitals & encourage you to think of your own places to share what you're working on: an open mic, talent show, church, family gathering, party, etc. We're happy to help you prep for those as well.
- Learning an instrument takes time – months & years of committed practice. Like most things... The more you put into it, the more you'll get out of it! The more you do, the better you get.

### Your First Lesson:

- Bring any music materials you've previously used. Check your email for your My Music Staff login information & add [noreply@mymusicstaff.com](mailto:noreply@mymusicstaff.com) & [info@ellensburgmusic.com](mailto:info@ellensburgmusic.com) to your safe-sender list. Sync your Student Portal calendar with your regular calendar.
- In-person: We are located on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street between Main & Pearl, across the street from the skate park. Families are always welcome to stay in the waiting room or in our studio rooms, & please note that most students work better with their teachers independently. We can record our lesson for your family to review later by request. No food or drink past the waiting room please.
- Online: log in at least 5 minutes early with the link provided by your teacher. You are always welcome to record your lessons to review privately later.

### The Music School Model:

- With our collaborative business model, MME students & teachers get more, diverse opportunities for making music. You have access to a whole team of professional teachers & will likely work with multiple teachers throughout the year.
- We thoughtfully match our students to teachers, but let us know if you have a specific teacher you'd like to learn with either on a temporary or long-term basis.
- For matters regarding adding or cancelling services, payments & charges, studio-wide events (including recitals), the studio space itself, or to provide teacher feedback, contact Jan or the administrative assistant. For music questions & student absences (for example), contact your teacher directly.

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### Monthly Payments:

- Payments are due on the first of each month for upcoming lessons. You will receive an invoice via email each month, or ask us to pay quarterly. This fee includes lessons, recitals, student appreciation events, & first access to all workshops & other opportunities. We do not offer refunds or discounts for missed lessons. (See “Cancellations & Closures” below.)
- Methods of payment: Mail or drop a check (for “Make Music Ellensburg”) at 201 N Pearl St, Suite 2, Ellensburg, WA 98926. You can also pay online with credit via a link in your invoice.
- One goal of Make Music Ellensburg is to support enthusiastic students regardless of ability to pay. Please ask about arrangements & scholarships or ask HopeSource for youth scholarship information ([www.hopesource.us](http://www.hopesource.us) & 509-925-1448).

### Cancellations & Closures:

- You or your teacher may switch from in-person to Zoom lessons as convenient.
- We do not offer refunds or credits for missed lessons. If you must cancel a lesson, please contact your teacher ASAP. Your teacher will send a video lesson with materials tailored just for you if they can't reschedule within 7 days. No-shows will not be offered make-up lessons, videos, or refunds.
- For sick days, we are happy to accommodate by meeting online instead of in-person or by creating a tailored video lesson for you to work through at your convenience. Please be considerate to others & stay home if you are unwell. Any students showing signs of illness may be asked to wear a mask or be sent home.
- Teacher cancellations: We are proud that our teachers are performing artists as well. We try to minimize conflicts in their schedules & thank you for your flexibility on occasion. If a teacher is unavailable during your regular lesson time, you may be assigned a guest teacher, offered a reschedule, or given credit on your account.

### Online Lessons Preparation for All Students:

- All of our students will have a virtual lesson from time to time for sick days, school-wide snow days, or just for your convenience. Here are how to get the most out of your virtual lessons:
  - A strong internet connection is a must, & a large screen is very helpful.
  - Turn up your volume or wear headphones.
  - Make sure you have plenty of light on you & are in a quiet location.
  - Back up enough that your face, body, & instrument are all in the screen.
  - Optimize your sound options so your teacher can hear you better.

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### Illness Precautions:

- We are following the most current recommendations for preventing the spread of viruses in our school. We are offering virtual lessons indefinitely & will continue to offer virtual or video lessons for any student with symptoms of illness. Students may be sent home if they are exhibiting symptoms of illness. We have masks & hand-washing available at all times, & our teachers may mask in lessons when requested.

### Recitals:

- Performing with & for other people is an integral part of learning music at all stages! We provide many friendly performance opportunities each year. Some of our recitals will have a fee to participate, & some events will be free or by invitation only. (Keep an eye on your emails.)

### Practice Tips:

- Make practice part of your **daily routine**, & only practice on days you eat! Your ultimate practice goal is to build habits that you don't even have to think about. Habits are created by doing the same thing over & over again.
- A little bit every day is the best way. Elementary students do well with 5-15 minutes per day - with guidance. Older students may look forward to 10-45+.
- Keep in mind that practice does not make perfect – *perfect* practice makes perfect. Practice makes *progress*.
- Set goals: what is your goal for this practice session? What would you like to accomplish before your next lesson? Review your lesson notes & stay on track, then give yourself a few minutes *explore & experiment* on your instrument. Play is important, too!
- Participate in every recital. There's no better way to get you motivated to improve!
- Finally, **don't stress out about practicing**. You get better the more you practice & play, but we're here to help you learn & *enjoy* music. If you do not practice every day at home, you will still make some progress if you are consistent & try your best in every lesson. Children especially benefit from listening to, dancing to, & watching others make music, too. There are even music apps & video games we can recommend to supplement your learning. *Normalize* making music in your family. Finally, if you need the extra motivation & guidance to meet your goals, consider scheduling longer lessons or schedule them twice a week.

WE ARE HAPPY TO BE MAKING MUSIC WITH YOU!

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## MME Student Welcome Packet

### Student Policies, Safety & Privacy Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_,

on behalf of [myself or my child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_] have read & understand the Welcome Packet, including What We Do, Your First Lesson, the Music School Model, Monthly Payments, Cancellations & Closures, Online Lessons Preparations, Illness Precautions, Recitals, & Practice Tips. I understand that my music teacher(s) will always strive to create a safe & positive music learning environment. I hereby release, indemnify, & hold harmless my teachers, Jan Jaffe, their families, & Make Music Ellensburg (MME) from any & all claims & liability arising from or in any way connected with my or my child(ren)'s participation with Make Music Ellensburg at 201 N Pearl St., Suite 2, Ellensburg, WA or elsewhere.

Additionally, I give my permission to take photographs, audio recordings, & video recordings of me/my child(ren) during lessons & other events for internal & public use.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date