

# Studio 22



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## Welcome to STUDIO 22!

It is a privilege to assist you on your musical journey at the piano. Since 2007, I have enjoyed working with students using the Simply Music method and its affiliates, placing a strong emphasis on accompaniment, improvisation and composition skills. Because I primarily instruct using the Simply Music method, our goals will reflect those of its philosophy. The overall goal of this method is to **“maximize the likelihood of keeping music as a life-long friend”**. We cultivate and support a learning environment in which:

- Students *experience* **playing** as a natural means of **self-expression**.
- Students will have the ability to **play a substantial repertoire** which includes a vast array of musical styles and genres.
- Students activate **the ability to self-generate**, i.e. the ability to progress independently. This includes developing a **strong foundation** in music reading, writing, improvisation, composition, arrangement and theory.
- Students are directed to *have a* **highly positive, self-affirming experience** throughout the music learning process.

## Teacher’s Role

Please know that the following policies have been carefully considered and are designed to support an environment and experience that *is the most conducive to success in lessons*. In this environment we are seeking breakthrough results while each of us carries very specific roles in this process. As a teacher, and **Method Coach**, I am responsible for delivering concepts and skills to students during our class-time which will be processed by students at home. In order to accomplish this I will:

- Maintain open communication with students and parents about the process and expectations.
- Be prepared and on time for each class.
- Provide appropriate instruction for each class and level in a patient and truthful manner.
- Facilitate accountability between parents and students within their roles of the process.

## Parent’s Role

- Provide an instrument that is in good condition (at least 61 full-sized keys with sustain pedal).
- Provide access to a DVD player and/or ipad or laptop for student materials. Needs to be at the piano and away from other distractions.
- Ensure that all projects are completed as assigned and on time. This includes attending the lesson and remaining engaged with the process (ie, at the keyboard, helping younger students) in class.
- Meet financial commitments by the end of the month for the upcoming month.
- Commit to a long-term relationship with piano lessons and structured practice at home.

## Student's Role

- Follow your teacher's instructions carefully by checking your assignments each week.
- Maintain *and mark* your playlist as instructed in class.
- Practice 15–20 minutes per day, 5–6 days per week. Students in year 2+ may need to practice 30 minutes or more each day.
- Remain coachable, honest with the teacher and of a good attitude in class.
- Commit to a long-term relationship with piano lessons.

## Flexible Learning Environment

One way to ensure that all students thrive in a group lesson is to maintain a *flexible learning environment*. This means that, as we progress, some students may need supplemental assignments or projects to stay challenged in their learning. Sometimes it becomes necessary to move students into different classes so they may progress appropriately. This often happens at the end of summer when students miss several lessons and fall behind or simply move ahead more quickly than their classmates. Because of this dynamic in group lessons, you may occasionally experience one or more of the following:

- A change in the time, length or participants in your class.
- A request to change to another group.
- Schedule or other circumstances leave you in a time with no classmates. In this event, you will have a 30-day grace period to move to another group, or pay a private tuition rate to keep your time.

## Lesson Time, Location and Schedule

Group lessons are 30– 50 minutes and determined as follows:

30 minutes for 2 students  
35 minutes for 3 students  
40 minutes for 4 students  
50 minutes for 5 or more students

- Shared lessons are offered at various times, (please check teacher's schedule).
- Private lessons are offered for special circumstances and at instructor's discretion. A private rate applies.
- Lessons will be offered on a year-round basis including 36 weekly lessons and some additional performances or workshops.
- Schedules are not guaranteed to remain the same for any certain period of time.

## Practice

- It is vitally important that each student practices on the same day of the lesson to reinforce what is learned in class.
- The playlist must be kept alive, marked daily and shown at each lesson.
- Practice time ideally should take place at the same time every day.
- Students under 17 will need the direct supervision of parents to ensure that practice is taking place and materials used as prescribed. This includes using the video, audio and marking the playlist each week.

# Tuition and Material Fees

## Tuition

Tuition is received through PayPal as a recurring payment through duration of lessons.

## Student Home Materials

Students purchase materials directly from Simply Music as needed. These materials are unique and comprehensive containing reference books, music score, videos and audio. Families will be notified as upcoming materials are needed. Prices are \$8-\$50 per unit.

**Registration Fee**            \$65.00 covers improvisation and studio materials

**Family Discount**        - \$9.00 per/month off for second family member  
- \$21.00 per/month off for third and consecutive family members

**Tuition Format**            All tuition is received automatically each month through PayPal. Families need to keep payment accounts up to date as a late fee of \$10 will be assessed for uncollectable payments. All account information is kept secure through a paid merchant service and Studio 22 does not have access to anyone's financial information.

- No refund will be given for partially-used monthly tuition. If you discontinue in the middle of a paid month, you surrender your pre-paid balance.
- Student materials are extra and are ordered by parents directly from Simply Music using SMD website.
- Receive a thank-you bonus for referring a friend who enrolls and completes two months of lessons!

## Make-up Lessons

Your lesson time is for you, so please do not miss. If you have to miss a lesson you have these options:

- You may attend another group session designated by Missy Murphy. (You may attend a class at any level even if it is below or above your own.)
- You may be assigned make up material to be finished at home.
- No credit or refunds will be provided for missed lessons.
- Should you need to miss for a week or extended period of time, your place is only held when tuition is paid in advance.
- Students who discontinue lessons, and re-enroll at a different time, will not be guaranteed a particular time or class when you resume. An enrollment fee may be collected upon return to cover necessary materials.
- Occasional and additional private sessions may be scheduled as needed for a rate of \$37.00 each.

## Inclement Weather Policy

I do not always follow the same cancellations as the public schools for bad weather. Many times roads are cleared up by the end of the day, etc. I will personally call you if we cancel. If you have questions or would like to cancel your own lesson you may call. If I cancel, a make-up day or Skype session will be provided. I do not credit for any lessons you choose to miss due to bad weather.

## Studio Calendar 2019

Piano lessons are taught year-round to support the best possible learning environment. The following breaks are included in the pro-rated tuition:

Jan 1-5	Feb 18-19	Apr 22-24	May 27-29	Summer	Fall	Winter
	Feb 24-26	Apr 29-May 1		TBD	TBD	TBD

In the event of inclement weather cancellations, scheduled breaks may be used for make-up lessons at the decision of the instructor. If this happens, it will be communicated clearly in advance.

## Student Resources

Several, helpful resources can be found on [www.simplymusic.com/piano](http://www.simplymusic.com/piano) as well as on my website [www.studio-22.org](http://www.studio-22.org). I also try to keep students and families inspired and informed on the Studio 22 Facebook page, with occasional blogs and other Simply Music newsletters. You may want to subscribe to some of these resources on your own to better understand the piano method.

An online video orientation is available upon commencing lessons. This is to establish a Skype or Zoom connection for the occasion we may need to hold a lesson online. I also will help you find your way around the websites we use for lesson materials.

## Performances

Weekly group classes give students the opportunity to play for others, increasing their comfort and confidence levels, as well as providing a social setting in which to share their music. Public playing opportunities are given throughout the year for sharing your talents. These give the musician incentive to excel and have a self-affirming experience. Public performance opportunities are not required but of course encouraged.

## Lesson Etiquette

- Please only take notes as instructed. Extra note-taking is very counterproductive to learning.
- Water is allowed in class, just nowhere near the keyboard. Snacks are only allowed in waiting area.
- Please turn off cell phones before class. If you need to take or make a phone call please step out of the lesson so as not to interrupt.
- If you sneeze, please turn away from the piano and then use sanitizer or wash hands.
- Please keep your children with you at all times. Siblings may sit quietly during a lesson as long as this can be done without a parent being distracted from the lesson.
- Parents, ***please participate in the lesson*** especially with younger children. Please do not take any notes other than what is given for assignments at the end of lesson.

*Thank you for allowing me this privilege to coach you on your piano journey!*