

Harmony Road School of Music

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Private Piano Studio Policies for 2011-2012

Harmony Road's comprehensive private piano lesson has a unique combination of programs:

- Weekly individual lessons (30-minutes)
- Group Musicianship classes every 7-8 weeks (60-90 minutes long)
- 3 recital performances (December, March, June)
- High-quality training for Certificate of Merit evaluation (sponsored by the Music Teachers Asso. of CA)
- Opportunities for community service performances
- Special awards throughout the year

Registering for lessons in our Private Piano Studio requires a more serious mindset than our group-only piano classes. Students and parents are making a mutual commitment to dedicate themselves to a specific program of study that covers all the important areas of musical development. Study of any subject that has life-long benefits will take dedication and perseverance. Although musical success brings incredible joy and satisfaction, it also demands hard work that leads to excellence. Please consider our studio policies carefully before agreeing to them. Our desire is to offer the best possible individualized instruction for each student so he/she will reach their full music potential and attain their musical goals and dreams.

Tuition and Fees

Private music lessons will run from August 15, 2011 to mid-June, 2012. The tuition is based on the whole program and is divided into 10 monthly payments from August 1, 2011 through May 1, 2011. **It should be clearly understood that although the tuition is paid monthly, it is not calculated by the lesson.**

- The **flat** tuition rate is as follows: \$120 monthly for 30-minute individual lessons, (whether there are 2, 3, 4, or 5 lessons in that month).
- **The \$120 flat monthly fee will be due on the first of the month and must be paid on or before the first lesson of the month. A late fee of \$10 will be assessed if payment is not received by the 15th of the month.**
- **There is a non-refundable studio fee of \$30 to be paid annually.** This covers teacher supplies, students' awards, recital expenses, time for the teacher to plan the course of study for each student, and recognition of our mutual commitment to a year of study.
- Payment for music books, CD's, auditions, Certificate of Merit registration, and other miscellaneous fees are due at the time you receive the items, by cash, check or charge.
- There will be a \$10 service fee, plus bank charges for any returned checks.
- **In order to reserve a specific day/time slot in the instructor's Fall, 2011 schedule, payment for the first month (\$120) + the \$30 studio fee must be made, as well as completing the Registration Packet. *First come---First served!***

Weekly Individual Lesson Schedule

Thirty-minute weekly lessons will be taught every week, beginning August 15, 2011 through the middle of June, 2012 except for the following weeks: November 21-26(Thanksgiving Break), December 19-31 (Christmas Break) & one week of Vacaville USD's Spring Break.

- ***Lessons will be taught even on single-day school holidays that fall on lesson days. This is important for continuity in the student's learning process.***
- Regular attendance is required. The studio reserves the right to drop a student for excessive absences or repeated requests for switching of lesson times. If a student is involved in many extra-curricular activities impeding progress, the discontinuing of lessons may be recommended.
- ***There will be no refunds or deductions for missed lessons.*** Please give at least 24 hours notice if you wish a make-up lesson. Otherwise you must pay for the lesson without taking it because your time is reserved specifically for you. Lack of practice is never a good reason to miss a lesson.
- ***Make-ups are not available for last minute changes (less than 24 hours notice) such as car trouble, heavy homework, orthodontic appointments, rescheduled soccer games, other illness in the family, etc. We adhere to this policy firmly.***
- ***In rare cases of medical or family emergencies, please call us right away and we will do our best to reschedule the missed lesson within one-two weeks as the teacher's schedule permits.***
- **Tardiness:** Each student has a time reserved in our schedule. We will honor this appointment conscientiously. In order that other students be given the same consideration, we cannot allow a lesson to extend into another time period. Therefore, if the student arrives late, the lesson will end at the usual time without adjustment in fee.
- **Logistics:** Please enter the studio and sit quietly in the waiting area until your lesson time arrives. Make sure your hands are clean and your fingernails trimmed. Students may warm up at a keyboard with headphones, if they have not yet had an opportunity to warm up at home. We welcome parental attendance at lessons if the student does not object. Siblings, however, can be a distraction and must be carefully monitored.
- **Please, NO food or drinks in the studio.** Water bottles with tightly-capped lids are permissible in the waiting area, but not near the keyboards.
- Private, individual lessons will **not** be taught on the weeks that Group Musicianship Classes are held. The Musicianship Class will replace the private lesson for these weeks.

Group Musicianship Classes

- Group Musicianship Classes will be held on Monday of the following weeks:
October 3-8, December 5-10, February 13-18, April 9-14, May 21-26
- ***The Group Class will replace the individual lesson for these particular weeks. Please make every effort to participate in these Musicianship classes.*** They provide vital performance and learning opportunities not available in the private lesson, as well as building teamwork and healthy friendships within our studio.

- The Musicianship Class consists of music theory, ear training, rhythm, performance of repertoire, ensemble playing, music history, music appreciation, composition, improvisation, transposition, harmonization, sight-singing, sight-reading & technique.
- Students learn each subject through the benefit of group teaching and games. The detailed contents of each class depend on the age and level of each group.
- ***The Musicianship Classes will all be held on Mondays at the following times:***
4:00-5:00pm: Preparatory Level & Level 1 students
5:00-6:15pm: Level 2 & 3 student
6:15-7:30pm: Level 4 & up

Recitals

- There will be 3 Recitals throughout the school year. Please mark your calendars and do not schedule business trips and vacations for this weekend. Family & friends are invited!
- Dates for this year's recitals are as follows:
Holiday Recital, Sunday, December 11th
Certificate of Merit Honor Recital, Saturday, March 17th
Year-End Recital, Sunday, June 3rd
- All three recitals will take place at 5:00 o'clock. The place of performance will be at our studio, unless otherwise announced.
- Every student must dress up for any recital or musical event. This is part of the student's training. Boys need to wear a dress shirt, dress slacks, a tie, and dress shoes. Girls need to wear a suitable dress or skirt and blouse. Dressing up always makes the performer feel good and play better.
- **All the students (up through high school) are expected to perform at every studio recital. This is, perhaps, the most valuable part of the student's musical education. Here at Harmony Road School of Music, we believe that music is a gift that is meant to be shared. Performing in recitals is training for this mindset.**

Certificate of Merit Evaluation

- All the school-aged students are expected to participate in an excellent study program sponsored by the MTAC (Music Teachers Asso. of CA) called the Certificate of Merit. The CM evaluation includes technical skills, preparation for varied piano literature for performance, sight-reading, ear training, and the study of music theory and music history. Each student who passes all phases will receive a certificate with helpful comments and will advance to the next level.
- ***This school year, the CM will take place on a Saturday in early March, 2011 in Vallejo.***
- ***The annual CM fee per student is approximately \$30, depending on the student's level. This fee is non-refundable and will be payable on the first lesson of November.***
- Preparation for this Certificate of Merit Evaluation focuses the student's study for the year and provides a well-rounded and comprehensive program that is goal-oriented.

- Following the CM, students will be given the opportunity to request specific music to learn. This provides an element of freedom, as well as balance in our program at Harmony Road School of Music.

Music Materials & Supplies

- Music purchases can mount up quickly, so we attempt to keep required materials to a minimum. We will use as many of a transfer student's old books as we deem beneficial for the student.
- A metronome is an important practice aid and is an investment the student will use forever. Each student needs a working metronome.
- Ear training is an important part of musical development. Please keep your piano tuned and in good repair. The tuner/technician can adjust sticking keys, squeaking pedals, etc. Playing on a poorly-regulated and poorly-tuned instrument is a detriment to developing good skills. We can provide you with the name(s) of reputable tuner/technicians.

Daily Practice

- Musical progress does not automatically happen. It must be planned for and worked at. Therefore, it is vitally important that students maintain a regular daily schedule of practice. If not enough practice time is done to enable the student to progress at an acceptable rate, lessons may be discontinued.
- An active interest by parents is necessary for successful music achievement. Parents need to encourage regular practice sessions, attend recitals, and attend the lessons regularly for younger students. **Do not expect younger children to take on the full responsibility for their own music practice. They need parents to help hold them accountable.** Your parental encouragement and oversight will reap long-term rewards in every area of your child's life.
- Parents also need to be responsible to get the students to their lessons on time, to pay the tuition on time, and to help young students bring ALL materials to their lessons.
- Please help your child meet this required minimum:
Preparatory level and level 1: 30 minutes/day
Levels 2-4: 30-45 minutes/day
Levels 5 and up: 45-60 minutes/day
- Make sure that your child's practice area has adequate lighting and seating, and is away from the T.V., radio, and other distractions.

End-of-the-Year Conference

- There will be a yearly Parent/Student conference during the first or second week of June. Conferences are mandatory. Discussion about plans for the next school year will take place at this conference.