\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ MUSIC STUDIO

Fall 20­\_ \_ Newsletter to Parents & Students

Students of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, ARCT RMT

Mailing address

Email and phone contact

 Welcome to the 15th year of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Music Studio in Cochrane. This Newsletter will begin our year.

 My professional background:

* how you started music lessons,
* your education journey including degress and diplomas,
* membership and participation in professional associations,
* music work experience,
* current studying

STUDIO POLICIES AND LESSON INFORMATION

1. LESSON PAYMENTS. These are payable by “Plan A”: Post-Dated Cheques. They can be dated the first or the fifteenth day of each month (from September 20\_ \_ to May 20\_ \_). There are 28 scheduled lessons over the 9 months...some months have more lessons than others, but you are paying for 28 lessons for the year. All cheques should be made to: “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”. Alternatively, you may elect “Plan B”: to pay by cash; or “Plan C”: Bank ETransfer: by the month or multiple months. (Cash and Bank Etransfer students need to pay before the 15th day of the current month they are in, or risk cancellation of lessons for future months...this is to avoid getting too far behind).
2. RATES FOR LESSONS:

 30 minute lesson/week $\_\_\_.00 per month

 45 minute lesson/week $\_\_\_.000 per month

 60 minute lesson/week $\_\_\_.00 per month

 3. EXTRA INFORMATION: There are no “Registration Fees”, but books, festivals, exams etc. will cost extra. In the event that lessons are discontinued, any cheques for full months which have not been cashed will be returned to you provided that two weeks’ notice is given.

1. MISSED LESSONS. Students can miss up to a maximum of THREE lessons per year (or FOUR lessons for Friday students), with good cause (emergency, blizzard, illness, travel). These will be rescheduled to a “Catch Up Week” (see schedule). I will always make up any lessons which I need to reschedule. Please let me know as far in advance as possible if you must miss a lesson, as it is possible I can reschedule you during that same week. Any lessons missed beyond the 3-4 are not guaranteed a Catch Up Lesson. All Catch Up weeks need to be signed up for...first come first serve for day/times. There is a moratorium of August 31st (end of summer) for Catch Up lessons from the previous year of lessons. We start fresh in September, but you can schedule Catch Ups in June/July/August, if that is all that can work for you, and you have missed the 3-4 scheduled Catch Up weeks.
2. LESSON CONTENT. Lessons will include Repertoire, Technical Exercises, Ear and Sight Training, (and Theory where needed). In the past years we have had “Theme” Recitals such as: Sweet & Sour; Improvising; Mistakes Recital; Family music; Musical Theatre/Showtunes; Composing & Arranging; Rock/Pop/Jazz/Gospel; Duets/Trios/Harmonies; Exams/Trial Exams; Ethnic Music, and one year: Music Festival Competitions. This year’s theme is: “Alberta Music Warriors”. This is loosely based upon the TV show “American Ninja Warriors”, with a series of musical stages to get through, timed, possibly with a team “Piano/Singing Battle” at the end. This will be in three categories according to Level of study. We will have judges and cash awards. We will be doing TWO of these Theme Recitals in February. And of course: festivals, competitions, and exams are always good long term goals for the year.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS. Once again, these will be sent out via email in January and June.

 These are not marks, but communication on strengths, weak areas, and goals.

7. PRACTICE TIME AT HOME. This is most important. Every student needs to put a priority upon a regular practice schedule. Each week should have a minimum of FIVE days of at home practice. Aim for a minimum 20 minutes per day for young beginners, 30 minutes per day for Grade 1 to Grade 4 levels, and 45 minutes or more per day for more advanced students - especially if you are preparing for music Exams/Competitions. You can achieve all your music goals IF you practice (correctly) every day. I promise!

1. EXAMS/RECITALS/FESTIVALS. Exams for Royal Conservatory of Music and Conservatory Canada are held in Calgary three (or 4) times a year. (Conservatory Canada and the Christian Conservatory of Music also have “Flex Exams” which you can schedule whenever you are ready). Most exam students prepare for piano and/or singing and theory exams. If you are interested in this, please let me know and we will set up your lesson program with that in mind. You will need to register 2-3 months in advance. I strongly suggest that all your technicals\* are comfortable and pieces well ready BEFORE you register. (Technicals\* and Ear/Sight Tests make up 32%-38% of the exam mark, so it is not wise to neglect them and then expect a high mark). Our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Music Studio Recitals are usually held in December and May, dates TBA.
2. STUDIO MANNERS. With no exceptions, all students/family members are to stay in the Studio area only, and refrain from wandering any other part of the house. There is a main floor bathroom at the bottom of the Studio stairs, which is for your use. The entrance to the Studio is alongside the left of the garage and up through the back garage door.
3. EXAM STUDENTS: June exam students will proceed past the 28 lessons (which end in May) and take lessons up to their June exam dates. They pay for one lesson per week, and then can schedule as many lessons as they need during June at no extra charge.
4. BETHANY CARE/BIG HILL LODGE/CAROLING. We always try to have little recitals at the two Seniors Lodges in town, usually in December and May.
5. SIGN IN BOOK. All students are asked to sign into the “Sign In Book” for each lesson. This ensures that all 28 lessons are accounted for.
6. MASTERCLASSES. I am introducing two Masterclass lesson weeks this year. It is just silly to imagine that students who are preparing for recitals, exams, festivals etc., have not had playing opportunities in small supportive groups first. Masterclasses allow the students to play or sing and give/get feedback in a small group. They learn to relax and enjoy playing in public (as opposed to being stressed out). You will see those two weeks listed on the Lesson Schedule below. These Masterclass weeks take the place of private lesson weeks, and are included in the paid 28 lessons. Students can join into whichever masterclass fits best (5-6 time blocks to be chosen once I ascertain when most students can come). These lessons will include a Masterclass Clinician and a chance to meet other students. Often the students develop friendships and see each other later at other recitals, festivals etc., building a little support group also. Students at University levels usually have weekly Masterclasses...that is how important they are perceived.

2016-2017 LESSON SCHEDULE

(weeks with no lessons - at all - are in red)

Monday September 5-9/16 First week of Regular Lessons for Fall Term.

October 17-21/16 Catch Up week #1: No normal lessons (MCA in Banff)

November 7-11/16 Masterclass Week #1: with Clinician(s) for Voice/Piano

November 13-17/16 No lessons (we are gone)

December 12-16/16 Last week normal lessons, and Christmas Recitals

December 19-23/16 Catch Up week #2: No normal lessons

December 19-Jan 8/17 Holiday Break - (and we may possibly be gone)

Sometime in December: Christmas Recitals....dates and times TBA

January 9-13/17 Lessons resume for Spring Semester 2017

Sometime in February: Theme Recitals: “Alberta Music Warriors” TBA

Feb 20-24/17 Catch Up week #3: No Normal lessons (Family Day week)

Feb 27-March 3/17 Normal Lessons resume

March 20-24/17 Masterclass Week #2: with Clinician(s) for Voice/Piano

March 27-April 7/17 Easter Break weeks/no Lessons (we are gone).

April 10-14/17 Normal Lessons resume (week before Easter)

May 8-12/17 Last week of Regular Lessons (week #28)

May 15-19/17 Catch Up Week #4: No Normal Lessons.

Sometime in May: Year End Recitals - TBA

DATES AND DEADLINES 2016-2017

\*\*Cochrane Youth Talent Festival runs November 13-16, 2016 See: <http://www.cochraneyouthtalent.ca>

\*\*Deadline dates for the “Calgary Performing Arts Festival” (previously KIWANIS Festival) registration in Calgary are Piano: early Dec. 2016 ; Voice early Jan. 2017. It runs April 18-May 4, 2017.

\*\*Deadlines for RCM Exams registrations: Nov.1st for January 2017 exams; January 4 for April 2017 exams (only Piano in April); Feb 14 for June 2017 exams; and May 28 for August Exams.

\*\*Deadlines for CC Exams registrations: Nov. 12th for January 2017 exams; March 10 for June 2017 exams; June 9 for August 2017 exams.

\*\*NATS Songfest (Voice) runs in March 8-11, 2017 in Calgary (ages 14 and up)

\*\*Bow Valley Music Festival: runs in Canmore, usually in May. Similar to Calgary Performing Arts,

it is a Provincial Level Festival, only smaller! :-) See: <http://www.bvmf.ca>

I am very excited about the year ahead, and looking forward to another year exploring the beauty (and challenges) of music with all the students. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. See you soon,