## grand pianoAllegro Piano Studio - Studio Policy for 20\_ \_- \_ \_

## \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, ARCT, RMT

Mailing address

Email, website, phone

## Welcome to my studio. I’m happy to have your children studying piano with me this year and I look forward to making music with them. In this policy, you will find all you need to know about my studio policy. Please read it carefully and keep it to refer to throughout the year. If you have any questions about it, I would be happy to answer them.

## Philosophy of Musical Studies

I believe that the best foundation for musical studies is classical music. Therefore, I encourage all students, after completing beginner books, to study various styles of music using the materials from the Royal Conservatory of Music and Canada Conservatory. However, I also recognize that students enjoy learning popular music so students are always encouraged to be playing supplementary music, whether it is hymns, jazz, popular or gospel music. In addition, Conservatory Canada has a Contemporary Syllabus and this is also an option for musical studies.

While I agree that exams have their place, I don’t advocate taking an exam every year. Exams are useful in that they help the student to prepare a full program and to get used to the process. They also provide incentive for moving ahead and sometimes motivation to keep studying. However, they can too easily become the only goal and the student misses out on playing a wide variety of music and styles. Therefore, I generally encourage students to do one exam in the early grades (grades 1-3), perhaps a second one about grade 6 and then a grade 8 exam. After that, they do need to complete each exam before moving on. However, I try to make sure that students play a wide variety of repertoire even in the exam years. This is, of course, dependent on each student and I welcome input from students and parents.

***Communication throughout the year:*** I communicate primarily by email for newsletters and scheduling. If you need to cancel a lesson at short notice you can call or text me at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and leave a message. If a parent has a question about lessons, please either call or stop in at the end of the lesson with your question.

Students and parents will be invited to use the studio website and record practice times and repertoire as well as being able to view the calendar. Please check with me about access to the website.

## Times and Cost

30 minute weekly lesson - $84 monthly (1st & 2nd year beginners only)

45 minute weekly lesson - $125 monthly

60 minute weekly lesson - $168 monthly

Individual theory lessons (30 min) - $80 monthly

Group theory lessons (1 hour) - $60-80 per month, depending on the number of students registered in a class. Students who are already registered for piano lessons will receive a significant discount.

There will be 37 scheduled lessons over the year, including group classes. There will be 3 group lessons over the course of the year. During group lesson weeks, students will be invited to participate in a group lesson. Group lessons will include performance, games, theory practice and collaboration. There will be no private lessons during the group lesson weeks, only make-up lessons.

***Registration Fee and Music Deposit:***

I require a registration fee of $\_\_ for the first child and $\_\_ for each additional student from each family to be paid at the time of registration. This registration fee will go towards purchasing music for the student for the year. If there are additional costs over and above this amount for music, you will be billed separately. Leftover money at the end of the year will be applied to the following year’s registration fee.

## Payment methods:

* post-dated cheques dated for either the 1st or 15th of each month (September – June)
* E-transfers through your bank – on either the 1st or 15th of each month (September – June)
* No cash.

Receipts will be issued on request. Please note that I do not invoice families for the monthly payments, only for additional music costs. Festival and exam registrations will be handled separately for each family with the family generally completing the registrations. Cheques should be made out to “Juanita Stauffer”.

## Attendance

When registered, students are considered to be enrolled for the full year. If a student wishes to withdraw, a month’s notice is required.

Students are expected to make every effort to be at their scheduled lesson time. If a student misses a lesson, a make-up lesson will be given if the teacher is notified before noon on the day of the lesson. If a student is ill, please let me know as soon as possible. Make-up lessons will be given for 3 absences over the year; after 3 absences, there will be no make-ups. Students are also encouraged to try to swap a lesson time with another student from the studio before cancelling the lesson. If the teacher misses a lesson, it will be made up.

## Practice Expectations

The best way to achieve in music study is to practice and practice intelligently. Students will be expected to practice a minimum of five days per week for the same length of time as their lesson. I will give hints and tips for practicing strategies throughout the year, as well as featuring periodic practice contests. Parental involvement at home is very important to students. Your positive feedback and encouragement will greatly help your student**. ~Unprepared lessons cost the same as prepared ones but their value is substantially compromised.~**

## General

Please come down the front steps to the left of the house and enter through the back door. Please be on time for your lesson. You may wait on the couch for the other student to finish. Please bring all materials to every lesson, as well as a binder for teacher notes.

Parents are welcome to sit in on the lessons if they so desire. Beginning students should have a parent accompany them to lessons for at least the first half of the year. \*Cell phone use – please turn down your cell phone when you are sitting in the studio. If you need to take a phone call, please go outside to talk.\*

Online permission for sharing photos

## Recitals & Festival

Recitals: There will be at least two recitals for all students per year and I would like all students to participate in the recitals. I make every effort to accommodate students’ families in planning recital times.

Festivals: The Contemporary Showcase Festival takes place usually during the 3rd week of November. The theme is Canadian music. The Alberta Piano Teachers’ Association Festival is the first two weeks of May. In addition, there are some Kiwanis festivals in Calgary and the surrounding areas. All my students will be required to take part in at least one festival throughout the year. If students would like to do more than one, that would be beneficial.

Other opportunities: Performance is a valuable part of music study and students will find that their performance skills will develop as they participate in various opportunities.

Dress Code: Performances are generally more formal occasions so a dress code of no jeans or T-shirts is recommended. Girls should wear a dress, skirt or dress pants and boys should wear casual pants or dress pants with a shirt with a collar.

***Contests and Incentives***

Throughout the year, I have various contests and incentives for students. These include practicing, note recognition, projects and other contests.

**I have read the studio policy and agree with its terms:**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**