

Aliah Elliott Studio Policies 2019/2020

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My Philosophy

While music is universal, the study of music is different for everyone. Each student's musical interests and learning styles vary, which is why I tailor my curriculum to meet each student's needs. Regardless of the style of music we choose to study, I am committed to ensuring that the student is performing with healthy technique. My studio is a positive and enthusiastic zone, where the love of music is fostered to grow into a life-long passion.

Student and Family Responsibilities

It is your responsibility to arrive at each lesson on time and prepared, with all materials in tow. To make good progress, quality practice is crucial. Individual practice regimens will be prescribed on a case-by-case basis, but the below offers a general guideline.

Beginners: 20 minutes of practicing 4-5 days a week

Intermediate: 40 minutes of practicing 4-5 days a week

Advanced: 60 minutes of practicing 5-6 days a week

Quality practice is achieved without distractions. All students should begin practice with a short warm-up using the exercises given before proceeding to the assigned repertoire. If you have any questions about the assigned exercises, activities, or repertoire, please ask! It is important that you understand both the method and the goal.

If something is happening at home or at school that is affecting the student, please let me know so that I can be sensitive to the student's needs. Even a short text or email before the lesson to keep me in the loop if something has happened can make the difference between a difficult lesson and a great one.

Commitment

When a student enrolls, they are reserving their place in the studio for an entire term as a minimum. The terms break down as follows:

Term 1: September 2, 2019 to December 20, 2019

Term 2: January 6, 2020 to June 19, 2020

Summer Bundle: Four lessons given through July and August, with flexible scheduling.

Tuition

Through the studio year, there are 40 weeks of lessons. There are 16 lessons given in term one and 24 lessons in term two. Lessons will be billed at a consistent rate, where the total number of lessons in the year is divided by the number of months. Therefore, your monthly invoice, depending on lesson length, will be as follows:

30 Minute Lesson: \$100/month or \$25.00/lesson

45 Minute Lesson: \$140/month or \$35.00/lesson

60 Minute Lesson: \$180/month or \$45.00/lesson

At the time of registration, payment for the first and last month of lessons is required to hold your spot in the studio. Payment for lessons in all other months is due by the first of each month by either cheque, e-transfer or cash.

If you are paying via e-transfer, please send to contact@aliahelliott.com using the security question and answer below.

Question: What service have I provided to you?

Answer: MusicLessons (Please observe all capitalization and spacing)

If payment is not received by the first of the month, a late fee of \$5.00 CAD per week will be charged.

A \$35.00 fee will be charged for all NSF cheques.

I reserve the right to discontinue instruction without warning should there be issues with the fulfillment of financial obligations.

Other Costs

Families should expect to spend an average of \$25 to \$40 on the purchase of music books annually. I will recommend books that I think will best suit the student's specific needs. As the student becomes more advanced, families can expect that the cost of procuring music will increase.

A professional pianist may be brought in to accompany students for performances. The accompaniment fees will be decided by the pianist and billed directly to the student. Fees may vary from student to student based on amount of rehearsal required. I will make every effort to select a pianist with reasonable rates.

Materials Required

- Notebook (for communication regarding practice assignments)
- Pencil
- Water bottle
- Voice recorder (optional, but strongly encouraged for voice students)

Statutory Holidays

Lessons will run as usual on all statutory holidays. If the student is unable to attend their lesson on a statutory holiday, a make-up lesson can be scheduled at a mutually convenient time during the same week, or on the Saturday morning of the following weekend.

Cancellation Policy

If I must cancel a lesson, the lesson will be made up at another mutually convenient time or you will be reimbursed for the cost of the lesson. Lessons that are cancelled by the student will not be made up for any reason. Please give as much notice as possible if you must cancel or reschedule a lesson. I will show you the same courtesy.

To help accommodate an occasional unavoidable change in the student's schedule, you can choose to be included on the studio contact list. This list is distributed to all studio families and is intended for use to swap lesson times. Please let me know if you have made a swap so I can plan accordingly.

***NEW* Studio Masterclass**

Studio masterclasses will be held once per term as a free of charge event. These group masterclasses are intended to serve as a make-up lesson for those students who have had to miss a lesson for any reason during that term. Students who have attended all of their lessons may also participate, but performance priority will be given to those who have been absent on occasion. These masterclasses allow students the opportunity to perform in a low-key environment and to learn from one another.

Withdrawal

If families wish to withdraw for any reason, 4 weeks written notice must be provided. As the journey of music lessons has many ups and downs, please do not be afraid to speak to me directly about any issues!

Performance Opportunities

Participation in studio recitals is optional, but strongly encouraged. Participation must be confirmed one month prior to the recital date to ensure proper preparation.

Students may also be recommended to participate in the Saskatoon Music Festival or to register for RCM examinations. Participation in the festival and examinations is at the teacher and parent's discretion. All fees associated with these opportunities will be assumed by the student including registration and collaborative pianist fees. In some cases, additional lessons will also be required to ensure preparedness, and those will be billed separately as needed.

No Visitor Policy

It is important to diminish distractions in the music studio to increase focus and learning. Parents will be occasionally invited into the lesson room at the teacher's discretion, but are otherwise invited to relax in the waiting room or leave and return 5 minutes before the end of the lesson to communicate with the teacher about accomplishments and goals.

Physical Contact

Singing is unique in that a singer's body is their instrument. Sometimes, it is easiest to explain concepts using physical contact. In order for the student to grasp a concept, I may occasionally touch the student or ask the student to touch me in the abdominal/dorsal or head/neck areas. I will always ask for permission before touching, but if the student becomes uncomfortable at any point, they must say so immediately and we will find a hands-free way to continue learning.

Child Protection Policy

During a private lesson with a student under the age of 18 years old, the teacher will ensure the door remains open as a commitment to the safety of your child. Parents are welcome to sit within earshot of the lesson. If they find it necessary, a parent is welcome to check the open door at any time without disturbing the lesson.

Privacy Policy

Your privacy is important to me. Personal information collected is for registration purposes only and will not be shared with anyone.

Your decision to register in Aliah Elliott's studio signifies your agreement to and full understanding of the policies outlined above. If something is unclear, please discuss with Aliah Elliott directly prior to registration.