

Jonathan Chapman Cook Piano Studio

Piano Lessons Information and Policy



Contact Information

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Welcome parents and students! I am excited to be a part of your musical endeavors. In my 25 years as a pianist so far, I have not encountered a single musician who is quite like any other. It is my goal to help you uncover, explore, and give direction to your own unique musical personality while also helping you to become a well-rounded musician. Learning is a lifelong process for teachers too, and I look forward to learning more from our lessons about the ways in which music can give meaning and shape to our lives, while having a lot of fun along the way!

Commitment. As your piano teacher, I am committed to providing you with my time, guidance, and the materials needed to help you set and achieve your musical goals. As with all commitments in life, the teacher-student relationship is a two-way street. I will be devoting my time to preparing for your lessons, and if you are taking piano lessons I expect that you will too. When we both put our time into preparing for our lessons, we will meet in the middle to create a fun and dynamic musical learning experience.

Practice. At the heart of your commitment to being a pianist is your dedication to practice. Practice goals will be discussed individually in lessons. Students should expect to practice most days of the week and to strive for consistency insofar as possible.

Parental Support for Young Children. Some young children are highly self-motivated, while others benefit from having parents present during some of their practice time, regardless of whether the parent has musical aptitude or not. I especially recommend parental presence for at least one practice session a week for children age 7 and younger. Parents are always welcome to sit in during piano lessons and ask questions.

Listening. A major part of learning to play music is listening. I encourage you to listen to all sorts of music and I would love to hear about what you have been listening to. Attending live performances is highly encouraged. I will occasionally give listening assignments based on music related to your lessons. I also encourage you to listen to music you've never heard before with an open mind. Bandcamp, YouTube, Pandora, Soundcloud, and Spotify are all great resources for finding new music!

Composition and Improvisation. As a composer and improviser myself, I encourage you to explore writing your own pieces as well as improvising at the piano. There is no faster way to learn about how music is put together than to try it out yourself. Lessons may occasionally involve composition or improvisation projects. If you are interested, please mention it to me in one of our lessons and we will make this part of your lessons!

Materials. Bring a small **notepad** (dimensions no smaller than 4" x 6", no larger than 8 ½" x 11") each week. In this notepad I will write weekly assignments and your practice sessions will be logged. Keep this notepad at the piano, review it at each practice session, and log your start and finish time in it. Acquire a **metronome** and keep it at the piano where you practice. Always keep a **pencil** handy at the piano so you can take notes, write down questions, or fill in fingerings during your practice time. Feel free to purchase any **sheet music** you are interested in. I will also sometimes purchase **method books** and sheet music for you with advance permission, for which I will ask students or parents to pay me. The notepad and all sheet music we are currently working on should be brought to each lesson.

Policy

Payment. Lesson rates are as follows: \$120/month for 30 minute lessons; \$180/month for 45 minute lessons; \$240/month for hour lessons. Payment for each month is due at the first lesson of each month. Payments made after the 15th of the month will incur a \$10 late fee. If you take the summer off from lessons, a \$60 fee is required to reserve your place for the fall. All payments made are non-refundable. I accept cash, check, Venmo, and Zelle. Cards and Paypal are also accepted with an added fee of 3.5%. Returned checks will result in a fee equivalent to the fee charged to me by my bank. Two returned checks will result in me no longer accepting check payments from you.

Cancellation and Rescheduling. Although some months will have five lessons instead of four, the payment due will be the same each month. I will plan vacations in advance so that each month averages four lessons. If you are going to miss a lesson, please let me know in advance and we will try to reschedule. Although I cannot guarantee a reschedule, I will do my best to make it work. Make-ups must be scheduled within four weeks of the missed lesson. Once a lesson has been rescheduled, it cannot be rescheduled twice. If a student misses a lesson, regardless of the situation, there will be absolutely no refunds. Make-ups are not granted for no-call no-shows or last-minute cancellations. You must cancel at least 24 hours in advance to receive a make-up. If the student is sick, please try to reschedule the lesson or plan a skype / facetime lesson.

Skype / Facetime Lessons for Inclement Weather and Sickness. During a snowstorm or other inclement weather, lessons can proceed on schedule via facetime or skype. If a student is too sick to leave home but not too sick to be up and moving, the lesson may proceed as scheduled on facetime or skype.

Disclaimers. Jonathan Chapman Cook is not responsible for any bodily injuries at the studio or personal belongings left at the studio. By signing this document, you agree that pictures, videos, and recordings of you or your child may be taken during lessons, recitals, and other events to be used for archival purposes, in promotional material, or on my website.

Contract

Parent/Guardian Name (please print): _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Student #1 name: _____ Student #2 Name: _____

Student #1 DOB: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Student #2 DOB: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Signature. In signing this document, I agree that I have read and will comply with this studio policy.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____