

Studio Policy- JRZ Piano Instruction

Calendar

The Fall/Spring session starts the first of September, after Labor Day, and lasts through the middle of May. Monday students will begin the Monday before Labor Day. The students will have thirty-two lessons, which will include some group lessons, during that period of time. There will be no lessons during the following holidays: Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, and July 4th. Two weeks vacation will be taken around Christmas and New Years and a one week vacation will be taken in the Fall and the Spring. The Summer session begins approximately the first of June and ends the middle of August. Exact dates vary each year. Every student will be given a calendar with dates at the beginning of the Fall/Spring session.

Fees

There will be nine equal payments September thru May. These payments are pro-rated over thirty-six weeks. The lesson fee is regarded as a reservation of a lesson time and covers not only the lesson, but also includes piano studio expenses. These expenses include insurance, maintenance of instruments, record keeping, incentives, recital expenses and the upkeep of the music library. These monthly fees apply to the Fall/Spring session. (See "Calendar" above).

Summer session fees and lesson times are arranged separately. (See "Summer Lessons").

All monthly lesson fees are due the first lesson of each month. Invoices are sent only if a back balance is owed, new music has been purchased, or if a registration fee is owed for a special event.

A studio registration fee is due in August and is separate from all other fees. This fee is used for additional costs and extra hours incurred for printing materials, incentive programs, recitals, and special events.

Missed Lessons

If for some reason a student is unable to attend his or her lesson, please notify the studio as soon as possible. Lessons will be rescheduled only if Mrs. Zimmerman is unable to teach or if weather conditions are severe. In both of these situations you will receive a call to avoid confusion.

Lessons will not be rescheduled for conflicts with other activities or if a student is ill. If there is an unusual circumstance, making it necessary to miss more than one lesson, please call. Other arrangements can be made depending on the flexibility of schedules.

Music and Materials

Music required will normally include a method book, a supplemental book, a theory book, a technique book and an assignment book.

Music and Materials cont.

The student will also need a set of flashcards either provided by the studio or purchased. If the studio provided flash cards are misplaced, there will be a charge for a replacement set. The student must provide a three ring binder or folder to use for additional worksheets and aids that the studio will provide. Throughout the year the student/s will be given sheet music and other seasonal music to prepare for events, recitals, or "just for fun".

Music will be purchased and billed to the student at the cover price plus tax. Payment for the music will be included with the monthly lesson fee either at the first of the following month or the initial lesson.

Music and additional materials will be loaned to students as the need arises. The music is labeled, "This Music Belongs to Janet R Zimmerman...", and records are kept of all music and materials on loan. It is the responsibility of the student to return all loaned music and/or materials in the same condition as received or the student will be billed the replacement cost of the music and/or materials.

Incentives

Incentive programs are used to help motivate students to practice their assignment during the week. It is important to reward students for their efforts and successes. A variety of programs are used to keep things interesting and fresh. A few of the recent programs used were: "The Performers Club", "The Piano Player World Series", "The Piano Olympics", "The Under 20 Club", and "The Piano Football Playoffs".

Summer Session

The summer session is eight to ten weeks long and is available for students who wish to continue their studies in the summer. Summer lessons are not mandatory but highly encouraged. If the student does not schedule lessons in the summer, they will still be able to continue as a student and schedule a time for the Fall/Spring session.

The summer schedule is arranged individually. Fees are determined based on the number of lessons scheduled and are not prorated.

Performances

All students are expected to play in the annual spring recital. They will perform one-two pieces from memory. Family and friends are welcomed and encouraged to attend. This is a performance and appropriate attire is recommended.

Approximately two weeks prior to the recital a group lesson will be scheduled. This group lesson will serve as a rehearsal and allow the students a valuable opportunity to perform, practice their bows, and understand appropriate performance etiquette. They do not need to "dress-up" for these rehearsals.

Special event recitals such as Halloween, Christmas, Duet, and Lawn Chair, are also held, usually one per year. Participation for these recitals is not required but strongly encouraged.

Events

Participation in all of the following events is on a voluntary basis. Registration Fees are due before a student can be signed up to participate. The fee amount varies per event. Music is a performing art. Each time a student participates in any special event, it gives them an invaluable experience that enriches their musical skills and builds confidence and poise. It also gives them an opportunity to perform.

Events cont.

The **Fall Festival** is held in November. The student performs two pieces from memory and is also encouraged to play the corresponding scale for each piece. This is an open audition, meaning that friends and family can be inside the room as they perform for the judge. The first year the student receives a rosette and musical pin to attach to the rosette for participating. Each additional year they participate they will receive a new pin. They also receive a written critique from the judge. No ratings are given. Additional fees apply.

The Music Fundamentals Fair, **Fun Fair**, is an event sponsored by Omaha Music Teachers Association, OMTA. It is held annually at the end of January or beginning of February. It is an opportunity for students to test their musical skills in eight different areas of musical training. Students earn ribbons, rosettes, and trophies, and even cash awards for the upper levels, for their efforts. It is a fun and positive experience for all. Additional fees apply.

The **Trophy Festival** is an event held in the spring. The student is required to play two pieces from memory, along with the corresponding scale and take a Theory test. This is an open audition, meaning that friends and family can be inside the room as they perform for the judge. All participating students are awarded a trophy with a rating of AAA, AA, or A based on their performance. AAA is the top rating. The theory exam is only for gaining experience in taking the test and is checked by the student's teacher. It is used as a teaching tool for future events. Additional fees apply.

The National Piano Guild is held in Omaha in the spring. The dates vary from year to year. The student is required to memorize between of 2 -10 pieces and be able to play the scale and cadence that corresponds to each piece. This is a closed audition, not a competition. Each student is evaluated by an appointed Guild judge normally from outside the area. The student receives a report card with a detailed judging critique, a pin, and certificate. Additional fees apply.

The **District Festival/State Festivals** are events sponsored by the Nebraska Music Teachers Association, NMTA. The **District Festival** is held in the Spring. The student prepares two pieces and performs two pieces plus the corresponding scale for each piece from memory. This is a closed audition. The student receives a written critique and rating for their performance. They are also given sight reading, ear training and theory exams. If the student receives a Superior rating they are awarded a medal. They qualify for participating in the Sate Festival if they receive a Superior or Excellent rating and achieve a 60% or better on their theory exam.

The **State Festival** is held in the Fall following the District Festival. The requirements are the same as the District Festival except the student is not tested for sight-reading. If the student earns a Superior rating they receive a Trophy. Additional fees apply for both of these events.

Please visit the website, www.jrzpiano.com for further information.