

# *Fagan Piano Studio, Inc.*

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[www.FaganPiano.com](http://www.FaganPiano.com)

Welcome to the *Fagan Piano Studio*! Because I believe that music has a place in everyone's life, my program is a somewhat flexible one. All students will be trained in music reading, theory, ear training, composition, and improvisation, and will have a variety of performance opportunities. I utilize both an acoustic piano and a digital piano (Clavinova) during private lessons, and use an electronic keyboard with a large variety of music software for lab sessions. Although I believe that all pianists need to be familiar with classical repertoire, I also incorporate music to fit each student's individual tastes – be it popular, jazz, ragtime, hymns, etc. My curriculum is designed to fit each student's goals, while helping them have a lot of fun at the piano.

## **Studio Policies**

Please note that these policies are in accord with recommended professional policies of the Music Teachers' National Association and the Florida State Music Teachers Association. Tuition fees take into consideration that I must provide all of my insurance, retirement, social security, and continuing education costs, as well as bear the expense of equipping and maintaining my studio, instruments, libraries and other equipment and supplies. They also take into consideration that I spend even more hours in planning, study, scheduling, phone calls, e-mails, bookkeeping, and organizing other studio-related responsibilities, than I do in actual lesson time. Teaching is my profession, my business, and my art; I wish to present and live up to policies that give me the time and financial security to devote most of my energy to the creative act of sharing music with people. I acknowledge my students' and their parents' place in a three-way relationship, and pledge to do my best to make music study a rich, growing experience for my students.

## ***Lesson Tuition***

Lesson tuition is payable in equal monthly installments (August through May). Any additional fees (books, etc.) will also be detailed on that invoice. You'll receive an invoice via e-mail on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month, and then payment is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of that next month. Please make checks payable to Fagan Piano Studio, Inc.

Any payments not received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month will be considered late, and will incur a \$15.00 late fee.

Any checks returned from the bank will incur a \$15.00 fee.

**All lesson and lab fees are non-refundable. Credit for missed lessons will be given ONLY in case of teacher illness.**

**NOTE: If you find that you must discontinue lessons, a one-month notice, and payment of same, is required.**

## **Lab Fee**

The Theory Lab is **required** for all students 8 years of age or older. I will consider younger students, if a parent is available to assist them in reading their assignments during their session, or if they demonstrate an ability to read and work independently. *ALL students have home access to the music theory games on the Tonic Tutor website as part of their regular lesson tuition, AND access to Piano Maestro, if you have access to an iPad.* Each student's lab assignment is planned to supplement their individual needs, and I monitor their progress weekly. They will be working with online music theory programs, iPad apps, and using the digital pianos in the studio.

The Lab Fee is \$160.00 per year -- \$80.00 is due September 1<sup>st</sup>, and \$80.00 due January 1<sup>st</sup>. Students beginning mid-term will pay a pro-rated fee.

## **Additional Fees**

- **You** will need to purchase a 3-ring binder to hold studio licensed music and other print-outs. Please select one that has clear pockets on the front and back covers, as well as a pocket inside the front cover.
- I will purchase music for students as it becomes necessary, and will add that charge on your next invoice. Average cost of music for a first-year student is \$60 - \$75 for the year.
- A metronome is required for all students. Most students are using one of the great metronome apps that are available on smartphones for free, or a very nominal price. If you prefer a digital metronome, they are available at most music stores in town, as well as on the internet. Prices start at about \$15.00, depending upon the type that you select.
- Piano tuning of your home instrument is essential, and should be performed by a professional tuner at least once per year. The fee for this service averages about \$100.00. I will be happy to recommend a tuner, if you like.

## **Lesson Scheduling**

Your lesson time is reserved exclusively for you, during the school year from mid-August through the end of May. During that time, if you can't make it to my studio I can offer a lesson via Skype or FaceTime, or I can make a few short YouTube lessons and send you a link. In this way, you will not lose the value of your paid lesson time.

**Please note that I cannot promise "make-up" lessons. I will make a Swap List available to those who wish to participate.**

If you must cancel a lesson, please call 407-701-9254 **at least 24 hours in advance**, or e-mail me at [anna\\_fagan@hotmail.com](mailto:anna_fagan@hotmail.com).

I do observe the usual week-long school holidays, and will provide you with a calendar in August which details those times that my studio is closed.

Please note that I **do** teach on all other *holidays*, including *Monday holidays* and those days that the schools give a *student holiday*. If your regular lesson time falls on one of these days and you need to reschedule, please make use of the **Swap List**.

### **Summer Lessons**

Summer lessons are strongly encouraged, as a break of this length will result in a significant loss of both technical skill and musical knowledge. Each student will receive information in May, which details the calendar for summer piano study and will outline the **minimum requirements** in order to hold your place in my studio schedule.

### **Recitals**

I hold two Studio recitals each year -- in December and May, usually at my "home" church (Presbyterian Church of the Lakes). As a member of the *Central Florida Music Teacher's Association* (CFMTA), there will also be several other performance opportunities and competitions available to those students who are interested. A calendar with the dates of these events will be sent home to everyone in the fall. Participation in these events is strongly encouraged, as I believe that music is a joy to share! We prepare well in advance for these opportunities, and students and I work together in the choice of music to be performed.

### **Student Day**

The *Florida State Music Teachers Association* holds an evaluation program, **Student Day**, each spring. Although I don't require this for all students, it is a wonderful tool for the serious student who would like an annual evaluation of their playing skills. Please see my separate handout on this program, if you are interested.

### **Assuring your success in piano lessons**

Successful, satisfying piano study is dependent upon correct and consistent practice habits. In order for students, parents, and the teacher to experience success, the following are my recommendations:

- Arrange a regular time to practice. For steady progress, please plan for at least 5 days per week, at a length that will allow you to make progress on the goals we establish together at your weekly lesson. Younger students may find it easier to break this time into two short sessions per day. Students with many extra-curricular activities will benefit from utilizing a calendar or day-planner to organize their practice schedules.
- Provide a practice setting that is free from distractions (TV, visitors, etc.).

- Parents, please check on your child's progress periodically during the week. Specific goals and instructions can be found in their lesson assignment that is e-mailed to you each week, after their lesson.
- **Treat practicing like other homework and expect it to be done each day. Unprepared lessons cost the same as prepared ones but their value is substantially compromised.**
- Make sure that you bring **all** of the correct music and materials to your lessons each week. Many students find it helpful to purchase a music case or tote bag in which to carry their books.
- Be sure to finish all written assignments.
- Arrive on time for all lessons and lab sessions.
- Keep your fingernails clipped short. **Please – no artificial nails!**
- **Shoes** – please, no flip-flops or Crocs. It's very difficult for a student to control use of the pedals with those on. Tennis shoes are fine!
- Communicate!! Please let me know of any special types of music you have an interest in learning, or if **you** feel that you need more work in a certain area. Parents, I'm always happy to schedule a "conference" to discuss your child's progress – this is best done during your regular lesson time.

***I'm looking forward to working with you!!***