

Dr. Max Wolpert – Studio Policies

Lesson Rates

WEEKLY:

\$40 for 30 minutes

\$55 for 45 minutes

\$65 for 60 minutes

INTERMITTENT (biweekly, monthly, or other):

\$45 for 30 minutes

\$60 for 45 minutes

\$75 for 60 minutes

Lesson Procedures

Lessons will be held over Zoom; it is the responsibility of the student to have an appropriate device with a good connection to the Internet. Lessons will not be extended or made up due to unstable Internet connection on the student's end.

A limited number of in-person lesson slots are available in Louisville, CO (45-minute minimum applies).

In-home lessons will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Lesson Materials

Each student will receive a link to a personalized Google Drive folder, into which will be uploaded any reference recordings made during lessons (as well as PDFs or any supplementary material). These materials are solely for the student's personal use, and must not be uploaded, shared, or distributed in any way.

At the student's option, permission can also be given to record video from a Zoom lesson directly onto the student's device.

Billing Policies

The student will be invoiced via email on the last day of each month, with payments due by the 7th of the following month. Payment can be made by check, Paypal, or Venmo. Students may receive one lesson with an outstanding balance, but any further scheduled lessons will not take place unless the balance is paid in full.

Cancellation Policies

A lesson will not be considered "cancelled" until said cancellation is communicated via email (i.e. even if a future cancellation is discussed during a lesson, that cancellation is not finalized until an email is sent). Cancellation is considered "late" if the email is sent less than 1 day before the lesson is scheduled, measured by day of the week. For example, if a lesson is scheduled for 3:00p on Tuesday, a cancellation email sent at 10:00a on Monday is considered a late cancellation.

If a lesson is cancelled with less than 1 day notice as outlined above, it will be billed as normal. If a lesson is cancelled with more than 1 day notice, students may choose to schedule a makeup lesson (pending teacher and student availability), or simply have the lesson cancelled unbilled. If a student has more than one unbilled cancellation in a month, all other lessons that month will be billed at the "intermittent" lesson rate.

FAQs

What kinds of lessons can I take?

Max offers lessons for fiddle/violin, viola, mandolin, composition, songwriting, music theory, and more!

What styles can I learn?

While the classical approach to violin and viola is all well and good (and certainly an option if it's of interest to you), Max is also fluent in several traditional folk styles, including American old-time, bluegrass, Irish, Scottish, and klezmer. If you are interested in these genres, your lessons could tend more towards learning rollicking dance tunes by ear, getting the hang of stylistic ornamentation, and improvising blazing fiddle solos. Lessons could also focus on transcribing pop or rock songs for the violin, or even writing your own music! Music lessons are about the music that is meaningful and exciting to *you*, and helping you express *your* artistic side; they shouldn't feel like going down a checklist of violin pieces that you're Supposed To Learn.

So what IS the difference between a fiddle and a violin, anyway?

Generally, nothing! While there *are* some folk styles that use a fiddle that's physically different (like the Norwegian *hardanger*), most fiddle music is played on an instrument identical to the violin (and, of course, violists and cellists can fiddle, too!) In some styles, including old-time, we'll occasionally tune our strings to different pitches than they do in "standard" tuning to create big, resonant drones – want to learn how?

I don't know any music theory – can I still take composition lessons?

ABSOLUTELY! Music theory is *not* a prerequisite for writing music; *anyone* can compose! Lessons in composition or songwriting are a great way to explore your own creativity and personal voice, and they make a great supplement to instrumental lessons as well! (And if you *want* to learn music theory, that's always an option too!)

Am I too young/too old to start lessons?

You are NEVER too old to start taking music lessons – no matter what you've been told, it's never "too late" to pick up a musical instrument.

For the pragmatic reasons of focus around screens, as well as the necessity of physically adjusting the student's posture and/or hands, Zoom lessons on violin or viola are not recommended for *pure beginner* students under the age of 12, though younger students with previous experience on the instrument will be successful.

Why Zoom lessons? Why not in-person?

Max does offer a limited number of in-person lessons. However, while Zoom lessons are certainly a *different* experience to in-person lessons, it's important to understand that they are not inherently *lesser*; rather, they each simply have their own pros and cons. Zoom lessons offer a number of advantages not shared by in-person lessons: the ability to screen-share, annotate, and save scores and notation software windows (particularly valuable in composition lessons), the ability to record examples, practice guides, and backing tracks directly in-lesson, and (perhaps most importantly) the ability to receive the same quality instruction no matter where the student resides, with no commute.