



Music Educator

520-405-3313

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### **PRIVATE LESSONS:**

30 minutes, 45 minutes, or 1 hour lessons are scheduled once a week. Additional lessons can be scheduled (as time is available) to help prepare for an important audition or show. Lessons are taught during the school year and during the summer.

### **BE PREPARED:**

Students are expected to prepare their lesson material to the best of their ability. This is your homework!

#### *Practice Time*

Students are expected to practice their warm-ups everyday and to practice their repertoire for the amount of time that I determine for you. Practice time may be split up throughout the week. Remember, you get out of it what you put into it so practice as much as possible. This is the only way you will improve!

#### *Quality Practice*

Sometimes students should be playing/singing through a piece from beginning to end, but more often students need to isolate problem spots within a piece and work on those, always remembering to "put the music back together" in the end.

Practice time should take place in a quiet, well-lit, and comfortable area. Practice time should be interruption-free (i.e.: no phone calls, no TV, no computer, etc). Ideally, practice time should be at a consistent time each day.

*"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit".* Aristotle

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Expected! Students are also expected to arrive at their lesson ON TIME and ready to go. Your lesson time will NOT be extended because you are late. However, if your lesson starts late due to me running behind with students, your full lesson time will be given to you either that week or the next.

If you know you have a conflict with a specific lesson date coming up, let me know as soon as possible. The amount of notice given and the reason for missing the lesson will play a role in whether you are charged or not for that lesson. If I'm *not* notified **1 DAY IN ADVANCE** about a lesson to be missed, the student **WILL BE CHARGED** for the lesson and I am not obligated to make up the lesson.

### **MAKE-UP LESSONS:**

I am not obligated to make-up an unexcused lesson you missed. If I must miss a lesson, a make-up lesson will be given if the student so desires.

**PAYMENT:**

Payment is expected at the first lesson of a 4 lesson series, or on a lesson-by-lesson basis. **Lessons must be paid for in a timely manner. If the balance is not paid by the time agreed upon, lessons will stop.**

**If you know you have a conflict with a lesson within the month you are paying for, please discuss it with me at the time of payment & accommodations may be made.**

It is not usually acceptable to cancel lessons because of a birthday party, sporting event or other social activity. Hiring a private music teacher means devoting time to that weekly lesson and keeping absenteeism to a bare minimum.

**STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE TEACHER:**

1. Be fully prepared for each lesson. (Practice the material you have been assigned to work on.)
2. Follow guidelines pertaining to absenteeism. (Give appropriate notice.)
3. Fill out practice journal each week, documenting your practice time
4. Provide & bring a 3-ring binder with you to **each** lesson for handouts and sheet music. (Note: you can decorate this binder however you want)
5. Bring a pencil with you to **each** lesson to take notes as new ideas, songs, and/or assignments are introduced.

**MUSIC:**

I will provide most vocal and piano music. Students are always encouraged to bring in any music they would like to work on. However, I reserve the right to decide whether or not the music is appropriate for the student’s age and ability level.

**INSTRUMENT CARE:**

*For voice students:* Your voice is your instrument. Do your best to take good care of it, which means taking good care of yourself. Get plenty of rest. Drink lots of water. Avoid smoke. Do not strain your voice by screaming or yelling excessively. Before your scheduled lesson: avoid ice-cold beverages as well as beverages that contain milk or heavy cream.

*For piano students:* Pianos must be kept in good working order and tuned to ensure optimal progress, including a properly working sustain pedal. Remember the training of a student’s "ear" is as important as the training of the fingers! Keyboards preferably need to have weighted keys, be on a stand, and have a sustain pedal.

**PARENT RESPONSIBILITY:**

All children/students need help with discipline. *Expect* to have to remind and encourage your children to practice. Students and parents both need to be accountable for consistent, quality practice. Never hesitate to contact me if there is something that your child does not understand.

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I understand and agree with all of the terms of Crystal Stark’s “LESSON CONTRACT” as listed above.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_