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**ASBERRY SCHOOL OF MUSIC
STUDIO POLICIES 2017-2018**

Welcome to Asberry School of Music, where learning to play the piano is fun!

MISSION STATEMENT

Offering traditional, partner and group lessons and incorporating the best of educational technology, I accept students from ages four through adult, beginner through advanced. I believe that music study is an integral part of a well-rounded education; maintaining student interest and facilitating consistent progress are my primary concerns. My goals are to nurture the innate love of music that exists in everyone regardless of age or level of ability and to help every student with the desire to learn to develop musical proficiency.

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

I received the Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and have studied with Mary Jane Grizzell, Donald Beattie, Guy Duckworth and Martha Thomas. I also played clarinet in the SIU Wind Ensemble and the SIU Orchestra. Teaching since 1979, I have run successful independent music studios in Carbondale, Illinois, Peoria, Illinois, and Raleigh, North Carolina. My professional affiliations include Music Teachers National Association, Georgia Music Teachers Association and Gwinnett County Music Teachers Association. I am a member of the Gwinnett Symphony Wind Orchestra, the For Now Chamber Players, and the Redeemer Piano Ensemble as well as an established adjudicator, clinician, speaker, accompanist and composer.

TUITION/FEES

A one-time, non-refundable fee of \$25 per family is due upon initial registration. Tuition is as follows:

- 30-minute weekly private lesson \$120 (\$115 family rate) per month
- 45-minute weekly private lesson \$170 per month
- 60-minute weekly private lesson \$225 per month

At this price, each student is guaranteed that I will be prepared and present to teach 36 weeks per academic year, August through June. In addition, performance classes will be offered at the end of each semester. Please note that your monthly tuition payments reserve a block of my time on a regular basis and are prorated for activities that occur throughout the entire academic year, not only for individual lessons. Therefore, monthly fees remain the same regardless of the number of lessons received in a specific month. The cost of any music purchased for use by the student and as well as applicable event fees (usually \$10-\$25) will be added to your monthly tuition statements. Bills will be e-mailed a week prior to the due date and are due **no later than the 1st of the month**. Accounts paid after the 5th of the month will be assessed a \$25 late fee. Please make checks payable to *Asberry School of Music*.

ATTENDANCE/MAKE-UP POLICIES

Because specific times are reserved for specific students, a student who does not attend a lesson will simply miss the benefit of that lesson. I will then use that time or other times to plan for the student's progress, locate materials, etc. Please be assured that your tuition pays for far more than the time spent with your child. **No refunds, discounts or makeup lessons will be given.**

Alternatives to make-up lessons: Performance classes offered at the end of each semester can be viewed as a form of a make-up lesson. In addition, families of private students may trade their lesson time with another Asberry School of Music student to help avoid absences. Use these rules to make sure swaps go smoothly: (1) I must be informed prior to and after arranging a swap; (2) No make-up lessons will be given if confusion from this arises; (3) Should two people arrive at once, I will teach the one whose lesson is normally at that time; (4) Please inform me if you do not wish to have your name included on the swap list, which will be distributed at the beginning of the academic year.

Illness: Students who are ill should not come to piano lessons. Performance classes offered at the end of each semester can be considered make-ups for absences due to illness. I reserve the right to send students home if they arrive sick.

Fall Semester begins August 7 and ends on February 23. **Spring Semester** begins March 5 and ends on June 18. In addition, performance classes will be offered February 27-March 1 and June 19-21. Piano camps and private lessons will be offered during the summer months for all levels at dates and times to be announced.

Inclement Weather: Lessons canceled due to inclement weather will be made up June 25-29.

CONDUCT OF LESSONS

Students should arrive at each lesson well prepared and with all necessary materials. Time will not be taken from the following lesson to accommodate late arrivals. Students are expected to behave in a respectful and courteous manner during lesson times. Students should wash their hands before beginning each lesson and keep fingernails short.

PRACTICE

You must have a piano at home for practice. For beginners, a full-size weighted keyboard with a damper pedal and a proper stand and bench is acceptable. After one to two years of lessons, an acoustic piano is highly recommended. If you need help finding a piano to purchase, please let me know.

Consistent daily practice without distractions is essential. For maximum development, students should practice according to the following schedule:

- 30-minute lessons: 15-30 minutes daily
- 45-minute lessons: 30-45 minutes daily
- 60-minute lesson: 60-90 minutes daily

It is important to keep your instruments well maintained and in tune. If you are in need of a piano technician, I recommend Texas Galan (678) 395-1931, Russell Gallman (770-570-0456), or Holly Quigley (770-861-9895).

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Performance opportunities for all students include concerts at area assisted living centers and an annual studio recital. Advancing students may also be invited to participate in master classes with prominent composers and pianists. Students should be encouraged to play for family members and friends whenever the opportunity arises.

FESTIVALS, AUDITIONS & OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

Festivals, auditions and other local events are a wonderful and stimulating addition to musical training at any playing level. They provide goals, challenges and different arenas in which students can enjoy and develop their skills. Selected students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of competitive and non-competitive events.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Parents are always welcome to accompany students to lessons and encouraged to monitor their children's practice time.

SAFETY POLICY

Students may be dropped off no more than five minutes prior to scheduled lesson start time but should be picked up promptly after their lessons, unless special arrangements have been made. It is not the responsibility of the studio to supervise children outside of their lesson times.

TERMINATION OF LESSONS

A minimum of thirty days' notice or one month's tuition is required prior to termination of lessons. The teacher reserves the right to terminate lessons when the student is irregular in attendance, repeatedly fails to prepare assigned material, has behavior or attitude problems, or does not pay tuition or other expenses in a timely manner.

Calendar

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| August 7 | First day of lessons |
| September 4 | Labor Day, no lessons |
| September 14-15 | Teacher travel, no lessons |
| September 22 | EPR Awards Ceremony, no lessons |
| October 4-10 | Teacher vacation, no lessons |
| November 1-3 | GMTA Conference, no lessons |
| November 11 | GCMTA Music Day, First Baptist Church, Duluth |
| November 20-24 | Thanksgiving break, no lessons |
| December 2 | GCMTA Performance Day (tentative) |
| December 21-January 3 | Winter break, no lessons |
| January 15 | Martin Luther King Junior Day, no lessons |
| February 17 | GCMTA Local Auditions, PianoWorks |
| February 27-March 1 | Performance classes, no regular lessons |

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| March 2 | Whisperings Awards Ceremony, no lessons |
| March 10 | NFMC Federated Festival, Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula |
| March 17 | GMTA Regional Auditions, University of Georgia |
| March 19-21 | MTNA Conference, no lessons |
| April 2-6 | Spring break, no lessons |
| April 21 | GMTA State Auditions (tentative) |
| May 28-29 | Memorial Day, no lessons |
| June 9 & 16 | Spring Piano Recitals, PianoWorks, Duluth |
| June 22 | Last day of lessons |
| June 19-21 | Performance classes, no regular lessons |
| June 25-29 | Snow makeup week |
| TBA | Teacher Flex Days (equivalent to one week) |