

# **Studio Policy**

## **Matthew Pavilanis, M.M.**

### **Piano and Guitar Instructor**

#### **MATTHEW'S PHILOSOPHY ON TEACHING**

The study of music is the study of sound and all things that influence the creation of that sound. Theoretical principles, technical understanding, music history, emotional awareness, and creative inspiration all directly relate to the creation of music. However, a good teacher can make analogies to link music to almost any topic or activity. The ultimate goal of music instruction is to make these connections to the student's life and interests, creating a very personal experience in the field of music. Music not only engages the student's intellectual processing, memory, problem solving and motor skills but also explores their emotional capacity, creativity, and self-discipline. The knowledge and embodiment of all of these elements helps produce an independent, self-sufficient musician.

#### **USE OF METHODS**

I do not exclusively prescribe to a single teaching method. All students naturally express different interests and needs, and these individual characteristics help govern the direction of the student's learning. Fundamentals of technique, music theory, music history, and performance practice will be addressed for all students. The specific musical interests of the student will be pursued with the hope that cross-relationships can be successfully established between these interests and other genres and periods of music. For instance, the student who loves improvisational jazz could eventually begin to see the link between jazz and the music of J.S. Bach.

#### **SYLLABUS TRAINING**

As a member of the Oregon Music Teachers Association (OMTA), my students can participate in OMTA festivals, competitions, master classes and scholarship auditions, and for financial aid, the Music Link program. I also have access to OMTA's syllabus adjudication program for students in both piano and guitar, which

consists of graded goals and adjudications. If you are interested, please look into the syllabus program at: <https://oregonmta.org/programs/syllabus/>.

## **PRACTICE TIME AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

Students need a daily, uninterrupted time to practice. Practice time will vary according to teacher assignments and student levels. Parental support is crucial to the success of each student. The assignment notebook is a means of weekly communication about expectations, assignments, scheduling reminders and progress. Feel free to consult with me about any specific questions you have about practice time or other concerns. I have found that a regulated practice expectation from the parents yields the best results both for the student's playing ability and in the student's overall enjoyment of lessons.

## **REPERTOIRE**

All students will be expected to maintain older pieces of study creating a repertoire that they regularly can enjoy and share. My students work so hard to master pieces, and with only a few minutes of practice time devoted to review, they should be able to develop a strong repertoire. In order to support their effort in practice time, a bit of each lesson will also be devoted to our previously learned repertoire.

## **TIME**

Lessons will be forty-five minutes or one hour in length. Parents or guardians are always welcome to observe.

## **SUPPLIES**

All piano and guitar students must have an instrument on which to practice regularly. An assignment notebook is provided at the first lesson. I will notify parents or guardians when music needs to be purchased for lessons.

Each student is required to have a recording device available at each lesson. Cell phones are the best option. I am also able to text sound recordings to cell phones. Recordings are imperative to the practicing process to help aid the student in knowing how their pieces should sound. It is also expected that the student listen to the recordings of their pieces often in the early stages of their practice.

## RECITALS

Two recitals will be held each year, one before the Holiday Break in early-December and another nearing the end of the school year in early June. The dates and locations of these recitals are yet to be determined. There will be a dress rehearsal in the hour prior to each recital. All students will be expected to participate in the two recitals each year.

## STUDIO SHOWCASE

A third recital will be held to highlight advanced students in the studio. As students progress, repertoire gets larger and is not suitable for the regular recitals. It will be an expectation for **all students to attend** and support the students performing in these recitals. Playing the piano is a very difficult task and the students who push their abilities to their limit will be appreciated. The date, time and place are TBA.

## JAM SESSIONS

Music is a great way to connect socially. Each month we will offer opportunities for students to get together and collaborate. These sessions will happen once a month in groups of 4-6 students and will be 60 minutes long. Sessions will cost \$15 per student per session. Students will sign up for the session a month prior to the gathering. Their teacher will integrate the jam session material into lessons to help structure the session. Jam sessions will help reinforce our work with chords, chord progressions, scales, rhythm and vulnerability with music performance.

## YOUTUBE CHANNEL

The studio will be launching a new approach to sharing our music with fellow students, friends and family! We will have a private YouTube channel and all students will be required to participate by sharing one video every two months. These videos can be public performances, run-throughs of pieces being studied, new compositions or improvisations, etc. Videos are to be sent to [matthewpavilanis@gmail.com](mailto:matthewpavilanis@gmail.com). These videos will be private and not publicized on YouTube. To share the videos with your friends and family, please email Matthew for the link to share the video.

## DREAMCASTING

The study and relationship to music is a very personal endeavor. To better support the student's relationship to music and align both parent and teacher interests, the student will be "DreamCasting". The "DreamCast" is an articulated goal by the student. The parent/teacher team will ensure that this goal is achievable and supported. These goals will be continually reviewed throughout the year of study. Goals may take anywhere from a month to a term of study to accomplish. The hope is to create a framework for lessons in which the student takes ownership over their musical education. This will be an optional endeavor for students and parents who feel that this would be a motivating influence in lessons.

## PAYMENT STRUCTURE

Lessons will fall into a regulated payment structure. In this structure the student will pay the same amount every month for 10 months out of the year (September through June). In this payment structure the number of lessons that will be given over this period will be averaged out over the course of the 10 months. Vacation weeks have been factored into the schedule. The students will receive time off from lessons during the weeks of Thanksgiving, Winter Break (2 weeks) and Spring Break. Students can make up missed lessons during the beginning of both Thanksgiving week and Spring Break week if a convenient time cannot be found during the week of the missed lesson.

I will teach two weeks during the months of July and August. These weeks will be announced as summer plans are developed. The student is not required to take any lessons over the summer months. Taking advantage of these summer lessons is highly encouraged to retain ability over the summer.

The price of lessons also includes two recitals and dress rehearsals a year and a notebook for writing down assignments.

### **Regulated Payment Structure (active from September - June)**

Location	45 Minutes	60 minutes
Matthew's Studio	\$150/month	\$190/month
Your Home	\$185/Month	\$235/month

## Hourly Rate

Location	45 Minutes	60 minutes
Matthew's Home	\$40	\$50
Your Home	\$51	\$62

Please make checks payable to Matthew Pavilanis. Tuition payments are due by the first lesson of the month. If tuition is not received before the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, a \$10 late fee will be incurred and lessons will be suspended until tuition is paid. Some families elect to set up automatic payments through their bank and have them sent directly to my address (2150 McLean Boulevard; Eugene, OR 97405).

## CANCELLATIONS / MISSED LESSONS

If lessons are canceled with at least twenty-four hours advance notice, they will be rescheduled during the week of missed lessons or at the beginning of either Thanksgiving week or Spring Break week. Last-minute cancellations or missed lessons cannot be made up and families are responsible for the cost of these lessons. However, in cases of serious accidents, injuries, or illnesses, I will do my best to work with the family to make up the lesson. Lesson time cannot always be extended due to late arrival, however, if my schedule allows, I will try to make up the missed time at the end of the lesson. If you think you will be delayed, please call or text me to inform him that you are on your way.

## TEACHING ASSISTANTS

New students will be assigned to a teaching assistant that upholds the values and philosophy of my teaching. As the student progresses they will have the opportunity to be taught directly by me. The decision to make this transition will be based on their progress with the teaching assistant. All aspects of this Studio Policy will pertain to students taught by the teaching assistant, including studio recitals, cancellations, and summer lessons. Lesson tuition for study with the teaching assistant is as follows:

**Regulated Payment Structure with TA (active from September - June)**

Location	45 Minutes	60 minutes
Matthew's Studio	\$140/month	\$170/month
Your Home	\$170/month	\$200/month

**Hourly Rate with TA**

Location	45 Minutes	60 minutes
Matthew's Studio	\$37	\$45
Your Home	\$45	\$53

**CONTACT**

My work phone number is (269) 267-3664. Please feel free to call between the hours of 9 AM and 10 PM if you have cancellations, questions or need to arrange a conference. If I am teaching or out when you call, please feel free to leave me a message. I also can receive texts or emails if you prefer to communicate in that way. My email address is [matthewpavilanis@gmail.com](mailto:matthewpavilanis@gmail.com). More information regarding lessons can be found at [matthewpavilanis.com](http://matthewpavilanis.com).

**I have read the above Studio Policy and agree to its terms and conditions.**

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Signature of Parent

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Date

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Contact Information

Name:

Address:

Email:

Cell Phone:

Home Phone:

Would you like your contact information given out to other parents who may need to switch lesson times?

Emergency Contact

Name:

Phone Number:

Email: