

Musica Fresca

Studio Policy

1. Attendance

Your lesson time is reserved specifically for you. I cannot rearrange lessons arbitrarily.

Student cancellations

If you need to cancel a lesson for any reason, it must be done as soon as there is a known conflict. A make-up lesson will be scheduled if possible and if the missed lesson meets criteria for acceptable cancellations.¹ Make-up lessons will not be scheduled for cancellations for other reasons. Cancellations must be called at least 24 hours in advance if at all possible. If three or more make-up lesson times are offered but declined, the lesson is forfeited. A lesson credit will be considered on an individual basis in special situations.

Studio cancellations

If a lesson has to be cancelled by the studio, a make-up lesson will be guaranteed. If a make-up cannot be scheduled, a lesson credit will be put on the student's account.

The studio will be closed during national holidays except for make-up lessons by special arrangement. These include all of the days that the Post Office and government offices are closed and Christmas Eve and all of the days following through New Years' Day. Any other studio vacations will be announced at least one month in advance.

The studio will be closed during days of dangerous weather if the schools were closed. If the weather has resolved, call and the lesson may proceed, or if the weather has developed since school was let out and the lesson will be cancelled.

¹ Acceptable cancellations include illness, family emergency, school or work events (must have 2 weeks notice), Band or Choir concerts (must have 2 weeks notice), special religious events student directly involved in (must have 2 weeks notice), other excuses considered individually. Cancellations for not practicing, forgetting the lesson, social events such as birthday parties, or inadequate notice on scheduled events are not considered acceptable and will not be offered a make-up.

2. Tuition & Fees

Registration fee. \$20 (Once a year at the beginning of the year in Sept)

Tuition is due monthly, payable by cash, check, or credit card, and due at the first lesson of the month. Checks may be made out to either Kathy Brown or to Musica Fresca.

- ♪ 30 minute lesson \$35 (per lesson)
- ♪ 45 minute lesson \$45 (per lesson)
- ♪ 60 minute lesson \$50 (per lesson)
- ♪ Discounts for multiple students in one household
- ♪ Scholarships available for financial need
- ♪ Work-study (studio or other projects) may be available
- ♪ Adult lessons available on a flexible plan

- ♪ oboe reeds \$15 each (handmade individually for student and finished with student present)
- ♪ Oboe lessons may also be purchased with unlimited reed option (up to one per week) at \$60 per lesson.
- ♪ Clarinet and Sax reeds (commercial) available also.

Late fee of \$10 will be charged for payments not received by the 10th of the month.

Returned Check Fee. A fee of \$25 will be assessed for checks returned for insufficient funds. If this occurs repeatedly, a different form of payment will be requested.

3. Materials

Students must have access to an instrument to practice in the home. It must be in good repair. Acoustic pianos need regular maintenance and tuning about every 6 months.

Students must have access to sheet music or books as progress is made.

Options for these include:

- ♪ Student purchase recommend sheet music or books as soon as possible
- ♪ Set up account at beginning of lessons and as music is needed, I will purchase and deduct (at cost) and charge account. (I get teacher discount at some vendors.)

A metronome is strongly recommended.*

A tuner is essential for wind instruments -- this can be in combination with the metronome.*

*Apps for these can be downloaded inexpensively to most smart phones, however phones are discouraged in rehearsals and in school.

A music stand for at home is recommended for wind instruments. I recommend a sturdy metal Manhasset stand. These come in several models and colors, including a travel model. They will last for years and be needed for extracurricular groups or performances.

Reeds. Good reeds are essential for a good sound. Reeds are very short-lived, as they are made of thin biodegradable cane and are affected by humidity, temperature, atmospheric pressure, and vibrations (use). A regular turnover in reeds is expected. Playing on a worn-out reed will give poor sound quality with bad intonation and lead to bad technique.

Oboe reed kit. When a student is ready to start making or adjusting reeds, we will discuss tools in detail. I do not recommend purchasing expensive knives or tools prior to that.

4. Practice

Your practice is your investment. What you get out of your music will depend on what you put in. Successful practice is not just about time spent playing the instrument, but what you do during that time.

Young children do not know what it means to practice and cannot be sent to “go practice.” That will soon lead to boredom, little progress, and frustration. In the beginning, practice sessions should be short and guided by adults. They should be fun and positive. I am creative about practice and willing to create practice games and CDs. As kids get older, they learn how to practice effectively. Often a short practice session twice a day is more effective than a longer one.

It is ESSENTIAL that a place be available that has no competition with TV, radio, video games, or other distractions. Telling a kid to stop practicing so that someone can hear a television will result in eventual failure.

5. Performances

Recitals or other performances are an essential part of music as a performing art. They provide the opportunity to share the joy of music and the progress you have made with others. They also provide the opportunity to meet and network with other students and parents with similar interests to form a community of music. Kids with similar interests often become lifelong friends. Families may find they can form carpools to events or to lessons. Sharing music in the community such as with nursing homes or other small concerts is another way to give to people who may not have access to this kind of experience and it can give them such joy. And this kind of performance is a great way of growing musically as well. Adult students would be encouraged to participate as well. A minimal fee may be asked for to help with costs for a venue if an expense is expected, but waived if this is felt to be a financial strain.

In addition, I would like to invite guests (students or faculty) from other studios to come perform at recitals that we have to network and give inspiration to our students.

6. Recording

More and more, I believe that recording is a new and essential tool for self-evaluation and is fun for sharing with relatives the progress you have made. I will make every effort to periodically make sound recordings of your playing for you to listen to so you can hear the “before” and “after.” In addition, my plan is to record any performances so that you can look back at them in the future and share them with relatives that may not have the opportunity to come see and hear you play as you are progressing.

Name	Instrument
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I have read and agree to the Musica Fresca Studio Policy.

Student

Date

Parent or Guardian

Date

Kathy Brown, Musica Fresca Studio

Date

Name	Instrument
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I have read and agree to the Musica Fresca Studio Policy.

Student Date

Parent or Guardian Date

Kathy Brown, Musica Fresca Studio Date

(studio copy)