

STEPHANIE COLE PIANO STUDIO

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Studio Policies

2024-25

Schedule

A weekly lesson time is reserved for the student for the entire school year upon registration (September through June). Plan to commit to lessons for this time period. Holidays are listed in the studio calendar. Lessons in July and August can be arranged on an individual basis.

Materials

Students must have a piano for practice at home (acoustic or digital). While a digital piano may be sufficient for beginning students, an acoustic piano is preferred for intermediate and advanced levels. The piano should be tuned and maintained in good condition. A digital piano must have: 88 touch-sensitive/weighted keys, damper pedal, stand and bench. The student should purchase sheet music, books or other materials as recommended by the teacher. Students must bring their music to every lesson. Other items needed for home practice include a pencil, and a metronome (or metronome app for tablet/phone).

Tuition

Tuition is based on **36 lessons** per year (**33 lessons** for Monday students due to holidays), and can be paid in total in September or in instalments. Payment by cheque or e-transfer is preferred, and should be made by the first of the month in which it is due.

	Tuesday-Saturday	Monday
30 minutes	Please inquire for current tuition fees	
45 minutes		
60 minutes		

Payment Schedule	
1 Payment	<i>Due at first lesson in September</i>
2 Payments	<i>Due in September & February</i>
4 Payments	<i>Due in September, November, February & April</i>
10 Payments	<i>Due at the first of each month</i>

Studio Calendar 2024-25

Important Dates

September 7 First Day of Lessons (Saturday)
October 14 Thanksgiving Monday: No Lessons
December 14 Last Day of Lessons 2023
December 15 Studio Recital
December 16-17 Make up lessons offered

January 6 First Day of Lessons 2024
February 17 Islander Day: Studio Open
March 15-22 Winter Break: No Lessons
April 21 Easter Monday: No Lessons
May 19 Victoria Day: No Lessons
June 14 Last Day of Lessons; Studio Recital
June 16-17 Make up lessons offered
July-August: Summer Lessons offered

Lesson Etiquette

Please arrive on time, no more than 5 minutes before your lesson. Students should be picked up on time at the end of the lesson. Parents are welcome to observe the lessons at any time, and are encouraged to attend with young beginners. Please do not bring any food or drink (other than water). Bare feet are not allowed: please bring socks or slippers to wear.

Practice

Students must practice at home regularly to achieve steady and satisfying progress at the piano-- the weekly lesson is only one part of the learning process. Practice time will depend on the student's age and level, but in general students should be playing the piano 5-7 days each week. Instructions and goals for home practice will be given at each lesson. Students preparing for RCM Exams and/or Music Festival must commit to a regular practice schedule.

Performance

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the studio recitals scheduled in December and June. These recitals allow students to work towards a goal, celebrate their progress at the piano, develop performance skills in a friendly environment and connect with peers. Other performance opportunities offered include: the PEIRMTA Young Musicians' Recital Series and the Queens County Music Festival. Students working towards RCM exams must participate in performance opportunities as part of their preparation.

Cancellation

Regular attendance at lessons is expected. If a student is unable to make it to their lesson for any reason, please notify me as soon as possible (email or text preferred). While I prioritize regular contact with each student, it may not always be possible to reschedule lessons, especially on short notice. Opportunities to make up a missed lesson are offered in December and June.

Make up lessons are not guaranteed and will not be offered for no-shows.

There are no refunds for missed lessons.

Students who are sick should not attend lessons. If school is cancelled due to weather, assume that lessons will take place as usual as long as road conditions are safe. Students unable to travel to the studio due to stormy weather can arrange to have an online lesson during their regular timeslot (the lesson will be rescheduled if this is not possible).

Discontinuing Lessons

It is recommended that the decision to end lessons be made in consultation with the teacher. Students experience many ups and downs throughout the learning process, and as a teacher I can help guide them through these transitions or facilitate a positive end to lessons if needed. One month paid notice is required prior to discontinuing lessons before the end of the academic year.