



Michelle's Music Studio 2022 Studio Policies (Private Lessons)

Welcome to Michelle's Music Studio! Thank you for the opportunity to teach you and/or your family!

I am honoured to have the opportunity to work with my students sharing the gift of music and equipping each student with the building blocks necessary to play music they enjoy. I LOVE teaching music! My journey as a music educator began when I started teaching piano lessons while in high school. I have been teaching piano and music for 30 years and I still believe I have the best job in the world! My students continue to be my best teachers.

I strive to create a safe learning space where all students feel comfortable to take risks. My goal is to meet students where they are at and move them forward on their musical learning continuum. Private lessons are personalized and students have the opportunity to select music they are excited about in depending on the direction that parents and students agree to focus on.

My initial music training was classical (Royal Conservatory of Music) and I studied Education in University with a Minor in Music. I also hold a specialized certification from Music for Young Children (MYCC). For several years I trained new teachers in British Columbia and California on beginner piano pedagogy through Music for Young Children (MYC). Have I mentioned I love my job? (o;

When students resonate with their music I believe they are motivated to practice and find joy in their music! Students are encouraged to play at Piano Performance Parties ("Recitals") to celebrate their successes and provide performance opportunities. They are not mandatory, though they are a lot of fun! Piano Performance Parties are typically held in December & May (public health permitting).

The studio is equipped with a Kawai Grand Piano and Yamaha Clavinova Digital Piano as well as a variety of instruments to reinforce patterns and introduce new songs to young beginners (step bells, push bells, glockenspiel, Boom Whackers, rhythm instruments). In addition the studio has over 100 music theory games and hands-on manipulatives to reinforce (theory) concepts as well as digital games. There are vaulted ceilings (great acoustics) and 5 large windows making it a bright, warm and welcoming space. There is a sitting area at the entrance for siblings and a washroom available.

The studio offers a 9 month lesson year (Sept - May) allowing for a break from mid-May through August or drop-in summer lessons can be booked at: <https://calendly.com/michellesmusicstudio>

A Little About Me

My grand piano was my “car” for several years as it costs about the same as a vehicle! I am an early bird and enjoy morning runs, hikes and walks as well as entertaining and baking. I have followed a plant-based diet for close to 20 years and I ran a summer guest house for many years. My husband, Brent, is a middle school teacher and we have a 14 year old daughter who loves to babysit and a 12 year old son who loves sports! We have had the opportunity to learn from serving as parents to many students over the years (6 international students, 4 hockey billets and 2 foster children). I am often found listening to and learning new songs to teach my students (often pop, rock and theme songs).

Lesson Tuition

Tuition is prorated into equal payments of \$100/month Sept. 1, 2022 - May 1, 2023. Tuition includes videos and pictures of students in action at their lessons and correspondence back and forth via email / text / messaging and recitals (public health permitting) as well as 30 x 30 minute lessons. For those who prefer, lump sum payments can be made (eg: Sept. - Dec. \$400 / Jan-May \$500).

** Students with 45 minute lessons pay \$150/month tuition.

Studio Calendar

The calendar includes **30** lessons. There are 15 lessons from September - December and 15 lessons from January - May. The calendar starts the first week of September and finishes in early May. Most studios require a 10 month commitment whereas the studio operates on a 9 month schedule to accommodate spring sports and activities. Please note there are no lessons during Winter Break or Spring Break (please refer to the Studio Calendar for dates). Calendars are sent out in the summer.

Tuition is due by the 1st of the month. E-transfers can be sent to musicalmichelle2081@gmail.com A gentle reminder there is a \$10 late charge for overdue payments. ** 1 months notice for withdrawal from lessons please (this allows the lesson space with a student from the waitlist).

Illness / Absences

In the event of illness or preference, Zoom lessons are offered at your scheduled day and time. There are 2 camera angles including one suspended above the piano keys. If you are unable to attend your lesson in-person or on zoom a recorded lesson can be sent to you via email by request. What if I miss a lesson? You are buying the instructor’s time; not buying the lesson. If you forget or choose not to attend, regardless of circumstance, you have still paid for your instructor’s time. **There are no refunds for missed lessons**. The instructor is not obligated to supply make-up lessons though may do so at their discretion. If your instructor is sick, she will advise you in advance and meet you on Zoom that week unless you prefer to come in person (she will mask). In the rare instance that your instructor cancels your lesson, your time will be rescheduled. Please re-read this before you register.

Registration Fee

There is a \$50 registration fee per student per year. It is due by June 1st to hold your lesson time. The fee helps offset the costs of printing, sheet music, games, music books, music subscriptions, insurance, cleaning, taxes, business fees, hall rentals, piano tunings, stickers, laminating, and more.

As always, please reach out any time should you have any questions. I’m looking forward to learning together as my students are my best teachers!