



## 2024-25

**(Please record these important dates in your family calendar)**

### Lessons run Sept.12 – June 13, except:

- November 26 - November 28
- December 25 - January 4
- February 25 - 27
- April 22 - 24
- 2 teacher cancellation days if needed TBD

### Important Dates to remember

- February 15 10 AM Local Nursing Home Play-in
- April 12 10 AM (at TMK Studio) Duet Day
- May 1 \$30 recital fee due per family
- June 8 4 PM Annual Spring Recital & Potluck
- Yes, there is a lesson the week following the Recital

**Communication:** The Music Kit is streamlining communications. Email will be used for all important announcements. Please check email regularly.

**Scheduling:** All scheduling will be done remotely through the [MyMusicStaff](#) app. We'll send you an invite to join, you'll set up an account, and then choose your preferred lesson time. Please reach out to Kristy O'donnell, TMK administrator if you ever need help with scheduling or events; and store her number for future reference (518) 321 6678.

**Tuition:** Tuition is payable in 10 equal monthly installments, payable on or before the first lesson of each month. (NHCSF participants should submit the teacher's invoice at the beginning of each quarter.)

**Make-ups:** Once selected, lesson times are fixed for the year; there are no refunds for missed lessons. Typically, lessons can be maintained in the instance of a hand injury (alternative studies are often extremely beneficial). If, on occasion you experience a scheduling conflict, you may view the teaching schedule at [MyMusicStaff](#) to try for an alternate lesson time, then request and confirm the change through Kristy (518) 321 6678. Remember to request and confirm with Kristy so I'll know you're coming.

**Attire:** No caps or hoods to lessons, and water only in the music studio please. *Semi-formal/casual* attire required for performances.

**Attendance:** Students are encouraged to visit other students' lessons before and after their lesson times, for duet playing, confidence building and two-for-one learning. Except for serious health concerns or family emergencies, missing greater than 3 lessons per semester will result in a hold on lessons until routine attendance can be established.

**Weather:** If driving is hazardous, we will email parents by 12PM, advising that lessons will be by phone or Zoom. Lessons will be shortened slightly to allow time for setting up equipment and students' audio settings. In case of a poor internet connection, the lesson will be held by phone. Zoom lessons are not ideal; we'll resort to them only when necessary. Please keep this in mind before you request a Zoom lesson for reasons other than for weather. Also, sometimes when I'm teaching in the studio I'm unaware of current driving conditions. If you start driving to the studio and feel the roads are unsafe, please return home and call me at your lesson time.

**Practice:** Behind every successful student are 1-2 supportive parent(s); they communicate often with the teacher, set up practice routines, expose the student to wholesome music, and encourage the student often. Let me emphasize: Teacher/parent communication and routine practice is key! For best results, practice at least 6 days per week. Whenever possible, go over new material right after the lesson, where 30% more learning takes place. Also when possible, complete your Saturday practices before leaving the house for play dates or embarking on your day! Missing just one practice day per week results in 1 ½ months of practice missed per year!

**Listening:** Students will receive great benefit from listening to good quality classical and folk music and attending local performances whenever possible. Additionally, Suzuki© students should listen 45 minutes daily to the Suzuki repertoire as it is essential to progress.

**Lessons:** Please come to your lesson on time, and if needed, set a weekly reminder to bring all lesson materials to every lesson. Parents are encouraged to ask questions during the lesson, but please leave reminders and corrections to the teacher. Please do not take video recordings during the lessons without explicit permission from the teacher and do not share without permission. (Thank you!)

**Preparations:** Please let me know before lessons begin if your student is struggling with learning, social or emotional issues, even if temporary. Progress in music study requires the use of proper habits, equipment, and materials at home. Here are some suggestions:

#### **Lesson readiness – bring to each lesson**

All Music Books  
8 x 10 lined spiral assignment notebook  
Pencil  
Canvas bag or carry sack  
Parent's full attention to lesson  
Please put cell phone away as much as feasible

#### **Valuable Home Practice points**

Quality tuned instrument  
Seat and feet height same as lesson – VERY important!  
Adequate lighting  
Routine practice time  
Shortened fingernails and clean hands

Thank you for entrusting me with your children's music study!