



## WELCOME TO THE BLUE PIANO STUDIO!

I'm happy that you are joining the studio & look forward to our musical adventures!

In preparation for our first lesson, please read through the attached Studio Basics & Policies. Completing your online registration form will require you to acknowledge & agree to the following policies & procedures.

Feel free to connect with me through our musical adventures. We will be getting you set up on our student portal, Class Dojo, where you can text me anytime with questions. My office hours are 2 - 8 pm Sunday-Thursday. I do my best to respond to all inquiries within 24 hours.

**Please note my studio policy requires lesson completion to happen at the end of a semester.** The Blue Piano Studio organizes the studio year into four semesters which allows for offboarding opportunities during the year. If a student wishes to complete lessons in the middle of a semester, a minimum of four weeks notice is required in order to avoid fees being assessed to the end of the current semester. If a student or their family experiences exceptional circumstances, notice may be reduced to two weeks upon

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# LESSON OPTIONS

## PIANO BUDDIES!

Beginner group lessons for the first 1-3 years of primary piano study. Small classes between 2-4 piano players learning & having fun while building piano skills.

## ROCKSCHOOL

Intermediate group lessons with 2-4 students focusing on ensemble playing in the pop & rock genres while building individual piano skills.

## Superstar

Individual lessons focused on building technique, sight, ear & composition skills while working on personal goals.

## Encore

Individual lessons focused on building technique, sight, ear & composition skills while completing a grade level & music festival participation.

## Bravo!

Individual lessons that prepare the student for the goals of competition and exam completion at the grade of study.

# LESSON OPTIONS

## **How do I select the best program for my piano player?**

Piano programs at the studio are grouped into three categories: Group Classes, Private Lessons and Drop-In Passes.

**PianoBuddies** is a group class option for beginner piano players. PianoBuddies groups have between 2-4 students depending on the suitability & goals of the individuals.

PianoBuddies in Little Mozarts & Level 1 run 45 minutes but are charged at the 30 minute per student rate at \$138 monthly. Levels 2-3 run 60 minutes & are billed at 45 minutes per student at \$203 monthly. Additional family member learning at the studio receive the 5% Family Discount, on each additional registration.

**Rockschool** groups are designed around grade level study of the Rockscool pop & rock curriculum. Rockscool runs their own system of exams & students may choose to participate in music festivals in the pop music categories. Rockscool students also may opt into Composition Camp during the summer semester. Groups are between 2-4 students depending on the suitability & goals of the individuals.

For private lessons, the **Superstar, Encore & Bravo** designations allow students to choose their goals for the year:

**Superstar:** *complete a grade level*

**Encore:** *complete a grade level with music festival*

**Bravo:** *complete a grade level with music festival & an exam*

The **Drop-In Pass** provides easy, on-to-go music instruction for the busy adult or teen learners. Focusing on your personal goals for piano studies, the Drop-In Pass can be purchased by the 4, 8 or 12 lesson package and can be used at any time throughout the studio year. The studio has several time slots reserved on an ongoing basis for Drop-In Passes during the studio year.

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# PERKS & BENEFITS

~ AT THE BLUE PIANO STUDIO ~

## 1. *Free Meet 'n Greet*

This first introduction to the studio is free of charge and is a fun & friendly way to check out the studio and this whole piano lesson thing.

## 2. *Easy Access To Lesson Scheduling*

Students receive online confirmation of all booked lessons & can check their schedule online, 24/7.

## 3. *Handy Automatic Payments*

The Studio accepts credit or e-transfer payment methods on a monthly, semester, or yearly schedule. Credit payments are secured by Braintree, a subsidiary of PayPal.

## 4. *Free Reschedule Credits*

As a "thank-you" to my returning students, each year completed in the studio provides the returning student with a rescheduling lesson credit.

## 5. *"Runs In The Family" Discount*

Current student have access to the "Runs in the Family Discount". Each additional member of the family receives 5% off tuition, adults included!

## 6. *What book? Where Do I Buy It?*

The studio provides all required materials and a copy of the receipt for the billed amount. Materials are always procured at the best price as I pass on professional discounts available to teachers.

## 7. *New Student Credit*

Love the music & the fun in the studio? Refer a new student to the studio & you'll see a referral credit worth one lesson applied to your next invoice.

# PERKS & BENEFITS

~ AT THE BLUE PIANO STUDIO ~

## *7. Practice Points And Pretty Great Rewards.*

Students join our studio community on Class Dojo where assignments are handed in electronically and lesson notes are provided in their private portfolio. Students earn points through consistent practice routines, challenges & great progress. These can be used to "buy" great prizes during prize week each month!

## *8. Composition Camp.*

The Blue Piano Studio runs a two-week, summer intensive camp focused on giving students the chance to explore and develop their craziest, bravest, and best creative instincts! It's not enough to just play music; at the studio, you'll get to create your own music too!

## *9. Pianosports.*

PianoBuddies, RockschooL, Superstar, Encore, and Bravo students join our fun-filled music skills festival during the first weeks of winter semester where they compete in skill teams, complete Christmas Challenges and test their music knowledge and skills.

## *11. One FREE lesson for a piano parent! (per household/per year)*

Yes, you read that right, YOU get a free piano session just for being a great piano parent! Choose your favourite song, an interesting piece, a duet part with your piano player or a technical challenge & come on over for some time on the keys.

## *12. Fun. Serious. We do both.*

Students build their understanding of the language of music, explore their own creative instincts and play some seriously amazing music every day at The Blue Piano Studio. Want to ace your piano exams or wow in performances? Select the Superstar, Encore or Bravo individual classes. Want to enjoy the fun of playing with others or just be amazed at your ability to make music out of your own ten fingers? Hop over to PianoBuddies or RockschooL and join us!

# HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

The studio is continuing the following precautions to keep us all happy, healthy and playing piano!

*Anyone who is currently experiencing any COVID symptom - fever, cough, sore throat - is not permitted to attend in person lessons at the studio. Alternate online arrangements can be made to continue lessons during this time.*

Here are some other ways we can help keep our studio safe for everyone:

## **In-person lessons:**

- Masking: while masking is not mandatory during the 2023-2024 studio year, you may wear a mask or request that I do so as well during your lesson for any sickness related reason.
- Sanitizing your hands at the station in the entrance
- Rescheduling an online or alternate lesson if you feel sick. All students will have unlimited reschedules for any sickness related reason.

## **Studio precautions:**

- A Hepa-filter air purifier is running during all studio hours.
- Piano keys are sanitized between each student.
- If I feel sick, I will move lessons online for that day/week.

# STUDIO BASICS

## **When do lessons start? How does the studio year work?**

Lessons begin the first week of September. All students are provided a studio calendar that includes details on studio closures & recital weeks. Lessons at the studio are organized into four semesters:

**Semester 1:** *September - December: 14 lessons + PIANOSPORTS!*

**Semester 2:** *January - March: 12 lessons*

**Semester 3:** *April - June - 12 lessons+ Composition Camp!*

**Exam Semester:** *July- 4 lessons - for those completing senior exams*

## **I've arrived at the studio. Now what?**

After footwear is removed at the door, please sanitize your hands at the sanitization station. Cell phones should be on mute, not vibrate, unless you are expecting a call from Beethoven.

## **What do I need to bring to the first lesson?**

Please bring all your current study books as well as the piece we worked on at your Meet 'n Greet. You will receive a studio binder for all additional study materials provided during the year. It's a good idea to have a sturdy bag to help keep materials from getting lost and to protect those beautiful books.

## **What if I feel sick or have a positive COVID-19 test?**

Should you feel even the slightest bit sick on your lesson day, I request that we book an online lesson or reschedule. Free reschedules are available for all sick days.

### **What about allergies?**

Please let me know if there are any serious allergies on your registration form. The Blue Piano Studio does have a dog on site, but not in the studio during lessons.

### **Do I need to purchase books?**

To minimize confusion and hassle for parents, I order any required materials for students and provide an electronic copy of the receipt for verification against the billed amount to your credit card or invoice. I always try to procure materials at the best price possible by passing on the professional discounts available to teachers.

Books commonly provided during a fall semester may include the student's lesson book, & technique or theory book. During the winter semester, books may include repertoire that is being played for festival or exams. Books provided in the spring semester may include an alternate music style book, such as jazz, popular, or modern repertoire or a style of the student's own choosing.

### **How long are lessons at The Blue Piano Studio?**

**Beginner Group Classes-** 45-60 minutes

**Rockschool Group Classes:** 45 - 60 minutes

**Superstar, Encore, & Bravo Private Lessons**

**Grade 1-3:** 45 minutes

**Grade 4-6:** 60 minutes

**Grade 7-9:** 90-120 minutes

### **Can I sit in on my child's lesson?**

The studio opens the first & last lessons of the year to parents or family members, but generally finds that learning is most successful without parents present. Siblings booked in adjacent lesson space are asked to remain in the waiting room with a quiet

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## **What is Composition Camp?**

Composition Camp is a fun & huge learning experience for students, giving them the chance to explore and develop their craziest, bravest, and best creative instincts! Students in Superstar, Encore and Bravo are enrolled in Composition Camp as part of their learning program while students in PianoBuddies and Rockscool may choose to opt in. Tuition for Composition Camp is billed at your current monthly charge as July tuition, even if you opt for the June Composition Camp dates. Students studying at Grade 7+ levels will see Composition Camp billed as 4 hours of tuition for the month of July.

## **What is Pianosports!?**

PianoBuddies, Rockscool, Superstar, Encore, and Bravo students join our fun-filled music skills festival during the second week of winter semester where they compete in skills teams, complete Christmas Challenges and test their music knowledge and skills. Pianosports! game day is bundled into your current monthly charge. Students studying at Grade 7+ levels will see PIANOSPORTS! billed as 2 hours of tuition for the month of December.

## **Why complete RCM or Conservatory Canada exams?**

RCM/Conservatory Canada certificates are widely recognized as significant accomplishments. High school credits earned from more advanced exams can be used to give yourself extra time to study for your other classes OR you can take extra high-school classes.

Level 6 Piano AND Level 6 Theory will give you 1x Grade 10 Credit

Level 7 Piano AND Level 7 Theory will give you 1x Grade 11 Credit

Level 8 Piano AND Level 8 Theory will give you 1x Grade 12 Credit

Level 9 Piano and Level 9 Harmony will give you 1x Grade 12 Credit

Level 10 Piano and Level 10 Harmony & Counterpoint will give you 1x Grade 12 Credit

# STUDIO POLICIES

## **PRACTICING:**

### **How long do I need to practice?**

Students complete a practice agreement at the first lesson of the studio year. I generally ask students to commit to practice 5 days per week. Students facing schedule challenges or life difficulties will have their Practice Agreement adjusted. The daily practice time is calibrated to the level of study and to the goals selected. A general estimate of what a student can expect:

**Beginner:** 15- 20 minutes

**Grade 1+:** 30 minutes

**Grade 4+:** 45 minutes

**Grade 6+:** 1 hour

**Grade 8+:** 1.5 -2.5 hours

The above are the minimum for practice to see a consistent gain in skill & for the learning pace to produce fun results. If competitions or exams are undertaken, practice requirements may increase. I'm always listening to the feedback from my students to make sure practicing goals are achievable, interesting and challenging!

## **PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **Will I have to perform in recitals?**

Performing can be an exciting and fun experience for students that have built the skills and confidence to be a part of their musical community through sharing their achievements. The Blue Piano Studio has three recital events – the Winter Recital, the Spring Recital, and the Summer Recital. Participation in recitals or pop-up concerts is not mandatory and all students will be given ways to build their musical confidence through participation in performance opportunities.

## **CANCELLATIONS:**

### **What if I have to miss a lesson? Can I schedule a make-up lesson?**

Lessons can be cancelled via phone, email, or the student's online account. Lessons can be cancelled online up to 24 hours prior to the lesson. Please send me a message on Class Dojo for cancellations with less notice

**Make-Up Lesson Week:** New students can bank one missed lesson for use during the Make-Up Lesson Week. Returning students can also access the Make-Up Lesson Week for any cancelled lessons. If the student does not request a rescheduled lesson, the first missed lesson will be banked for Make-Up Lesson Week.

**Rescheduled Lessons:** Lessons missed due to bad weather or even the slightest signs of illness receive free reschedules or may be banked to Make-Up Lesson Week. If you are feeling ill or concerned about travel safety, please contact me to arrange an online Skype lesson or a rescheduled lesson date.

Lessons missed due to foreseeable circumstances such as vacation or family events can be rescheduled using the student's Studio Credit. Returning students receive a Studio Credit for each full year the student has completed at the studio which can be used any time for a free rescheduled lesson. Studio Credits are available to use within the same studio year. Studio Credits renew each studio year in September.

A lesson that has to be cancelled due to unforeseeable circumstances on my part will be rescheduled at the student's preferred time and their account credited with a Reschedule Credit as a thank-you.

### **My lesson day is on a Sunday or Monday. What about holiday weekends?**

All private lessons falling on a holiday Sunday or Monday are automatically rescheduled to the following Saturday. The Studio Calendar indicates the 4 weekends

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## TUITION:

### **How are lessons charged at The Blue Piano Studio?**

Tuition at The Blue Piano Studio is \$65 per lesson hour. Music studios commonly assign a "Materials Fee" or a "Recital Fee" in addition to tuition fees. These fees can be from \$20-\$40 per semester. The Blue Piano Studio bundles the Materials Fee (\$24 per semester) into the lesson fee which shows as a charge of \$2 per lesson. Here's what that fee covers:

- Easy, online access to lesson booking, cancellation & re-scheduling
- Automatic, no-fuss payment by credit card.
- Studio binder, practice sheets, and all supplementary learning materials
- Student access to online resources, listening activities, & studio activities
- Student use of the lending library with take-home materials that support lesson goals
- Three recitals where musicians can show off their skills
- All the fun, resources, & games in Pianosports!
- All the fun, resources, & games at Composition Camp!

### **How do I pay for lessons?**

Lessons can be paid by the month, semester or by studio year. The monthly plan is charged at 4 lessons per month.

Payment can be made either through automatic credit card deduction (collect those points!) or via e-transfer. Credit cards are billed on the second Friday of the month prior to the month of tuition. For example, January tuition is billed on the second Friday of December.

If you've chosen e-transfer as your payment method, you will receive an invoice on the second Friday of the previous month with payment due by the 1st of the month of tuition. Accounts overdue are provided one reminder notice. Accounts overdue by the 5th of the following month accrue a \$25 overdue charge.

## **CLASS DOJO, VIDEO FEEDBACK & ONLINE CONTENT:**

The Blue Piano Studio uses the online platform, Class Dojo, as a one-stop shop & Grand Central Station for all student assignments, studio challenges, practice points, & other fun activities! Student accounts are easy to set up by scanning the QR code provided at your first lesson. Parent accounts can be created by clicking on the email invitation. Content in individual student portfolios is private and shared only between the student, parent, & teacher.

Through the year, students will be provided with recorded copies of their playing for their own assessment and learning. There is a an often instant and valuable connection to the concepts and practice work done in studio for students when they can watch themselves play and use their own assessment skills of their performance. The Blue Piano Studio also runs a website and a Facebook page where student's musical accomplishments are celebrated at different times in the year. These videos and posts are helpful to students who find it motivating to see their accomplishments celebrated. If you do not want your child's image(s) or recordings to be used, please let me know.

## **COMPLETING LESSONS:**

### **What if I wish to complete lessons prior to the end of the semester?**

Lesson time is reserved for the student for the duration of the semester or the studio year according to your registration form. Please note my studio policy requires lesson completion to happen at the end of a semester. The Blue Piano Studio organizes the studio year into four semesters which allows for offboarding opportunities during the year. If a student wishes to complete lessons in the middle of a semester, a minimum of four weeks notice is required in order to avoid fees being assessed to the end of the current semester. If a student or their family experiences exceptional circumstances, notice may be reduced to two weeks upon request.