

Nicolas Lira
905 7th Ave. Apt 32D
Garner, NC 27529
(910) 390-0126 ♦ lessons@nicolaslira.com

Lesson Policies

This document includes my expectations for my students, my absence policy, billing information, and other details. After reading, students and guardians are asked to sign and return the slip on the last page. Please hold on to this document in case you have any further questions.

Learning should be enjoyable and rewarding, even when it might become challenging. As an educator, I seek to inspire students to grow as musicians and people. Music lessons build creative problem solving, communication skills, and discipline, among other characteristics. I strive to provide my students all that is necessary for continual growth and success at their instrument.

My lesson approach caters to each student. Lessons consist of exercises to develop tone and technique, as well as learning repertoire and developing musicality. Other skills and topics include improvisation, listening, and music theory. Like any area, there will be times that the student advances leaps and bounds and other times when he or she may struggle. Time and diligent work will always lead to mastery. Beyond practicing, it is vital for students to listen to a wide range of music and seek out live performances to broaden their knowledge and appreciation for culture.

Tuition

Lesson tuition is billed monthly. Tuition covers the lesson fee and it reserves the lesson time. A bill will be received in the third week of month, with payment due by first lesson of the month. Payment may be made by check, cash, or Paypal. There is a **\$35** returned check fee, added to the following month's invoice per occurrence. Tuition is not refundable.

Every August, students will be billed a registration fee of **\$25**. Students beginning after December 31 will be billed a pro-rated fee of **\$15**. This fee covers the cost of photo-copying handouts, space for a studio recital, and access to audio recordings of each recital.

If I have to cancel lessons for any reason, the lesson will be rescheduled or the student will be credited on the next bill.

Tuition, *per lesson*:

	30 minutes (beginners only)	45 minutes	60 minutes
Private lesson	\$30.00	\$42.00	\$54.00
Group lesson (when available)	n/a	\$20.00	n/a

In the event of a student's illness, I will reschedule the lesson, provided notification by 12PM. If the student does not attend school/work, he or she should not attend their lesson!

If a lesson will be missed due to travel or a school function, I ask for notice *at least* the week before.

Lesson termination is at the digression of the family; however, tuition will not be reimbursed.

I do not schedule make-ups for missed lessons which I do not receive prior notice.

Travel

If teaching at a student's home, the following *monthly* fees will be billed based on the distance from 912 7th Avenue, Garner, NC 27529.

0-8 miles	\$20
8-15 miles	\$40
15-22 miles	\$60

Practice

Parental support and positive reinforcement is vital for good practice habits, especially for students under 15 years old. Parents should expect to remind their child to practice!

Routine is the most essential aspect of practice. This ensures consistent progress. In lessons, I provide the student the tools to become better musicians. It is the student's responsibility to implement these by practicing during the week. Parents are invited to sit-in at each lesson so that they may follow their child's progress.

5-7 years	15-20 minutes; 4 days/week
8-10 years	30 minutes; 5 days/week
10-13 years	45 minutes; 5 days/week
14-18 years	60 minutes; 6 days/week

Performance

Performance is a vital aspect of music making. Students are expected to participate in studio recitals, as well as a group performance class, when offered. I encourage all students to seek out additional performance opportunities including for family and friends, school, and church, solo festivals, honors bands, and summer music camps.

Equipment and Materials

All students should bring to each lesson:

- 3-ring notebook with lined paper + staff paper
- All assigned music

A metronome/tuner is required for practice at home. I recommend purchasing an affordable product by Korg or Matrix, but an app such as Tonal Energy or Tunable is acceptable.

It is preferred that all piano students have an acoustic piano at home with a piano bench or adjustable piano stool. A full-size electronic keyboard with 88 weighted keys is acceptable for the first two years of study.

Woodwind players – see the **Equipment** handout.

Please ask for my input before making a large purchase such as an instrument or a mouthpiece. I want to make sure that your money is well spent on reliable equipment that will help you succeed!

(Sign and return to Dr. Lira)

I have read and understand the policies for the studio of Nicolas Lira.

Student: _____

Parent: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

revised August 15, 2019