

Nicolas Lira, Saxophonist
5143 Paseo Blvd. ♦ Kansas City, KC 64110 ♦ (517) 898-2904 ♦ lira.nico@gmail.com

Lesson Policies

Here you will find all the information specific to lessons as a member of my studio. This includes my expectations for my students, my absence policy, billing information, and other details. Please hold on to this in case you have any further questions.

As an educator, I seek to inspire students to grow as musicians and people. Music lessons build responsibility, cooperation, communication, and discipline, among other characteristics. I strive to provide my students what is necessary for continual growth and success at their instrument. I challenge each one to attain their full potential. Learning an instrument is not easy, but it should be enjoyable and rewarding.

My approach to lessons differs for each student. Every student learns differently. Lessons consist of exercises to develop tone and technique as well as pieces to develop musicality. Like many other processes, there will be times that the student advances leaps and bounds and other times that s/he might struggle. Time and diligent work will always lead to mastery. Beyond practicing, it is important for students to listen to a wide range of music and seek out live performances to broaden their knowledge.

Billing

I charge for lessons on a monthly basis. I'll give a bill to the student at the last lesson of the month for the next four weeks and I expect to receive the payment by the first lesson of the month. This covers the lesson fee and it reserves the lesson time. Lessons are not refunded. Fees are as follows:

	30 minutes	45 minutes	60 minutes
Private lesson	\$20.00	\$28.00	\$38.00
Duet (2 students)		\$21.00	\$29.00

I provide the option of Duet Lessons for pairs of students at a similar skill level.

Travel fees will be discussed on a case-by-case basis, if lessons do not take place at UMKC or at my home.

I expect at least 24 hours notice before a missed lesson. The more notice, the better. I may reschedule missed lessons on a case-by-case basis. I will not reschedule missed lessons for which I do not receive adequate notice.

If I happen to be ill or if I have to cancel lessons for any other reason, we will reschedule or the student will be credited on the next bill. I will hold one or two make-up dates at the end of each term for students in duet or group lessons.

Equipment

It is expected that each student keep his or her horn in good repair. This includes swabbing the horn after practicing, as well as taking it to a repairman several times per year.

Students are also required to have at least five reeds in good condition, all of the time. A chipped or split reed is a handicap on everyone's sound.

A metronome and tuner are also mandatory. Both are essential practice tools. I am happy to make a recommendation if you need to purchase either.

Kansas City Metro Repair Technicians:

Harold Steinhardt
Overland Park, KS
(913)648-2696
www.doctornote.net

Judy Dietz
Leavenworth, KS
(913)772-4568
www.judiswwshop.com

Will Peake
Parkville, MO
(816)645-7750

Music and Supplies:
Jeanne Inc. - music company in Ham Lake, MN
www.jeanneinc.com

Groth Music – music company in Bloomington, MN
www.grothmusic.com

Weiner Music – instruments and supplies in Mineola, NY
www.weinermusic.com

Muncy Winds – instruments and supplies in Vilas, NC
www.muncywinds.com

Woodwind Brasswind – instruments and supplies in South Bend, IN
www.wwbw.com

Practice

Practice is a vital element in advancing any skill, whether it is a subject in school or a sport. Daily practice will ensure consistent progress. In lessons I will give the student the tools to become better musicians. It is the student's responsibility to implement these by practicing during the week. I expect students to practice for the duration of their lesson each day. Beginning students may wish to divide this into several shorter sessions while they develop endurance. It is often necessary for parents to remind their student to practice either suggesting a time or asking, "When are you going to practice today?"

Good practice habits cannot be overemphasized. Practicing is a period of focused work with specific goals. As soon as one's focus disappears, the student is mindlessly pressing buttons and wasting time. Often times it is more productive to take a quick break and gather oneself, then to get frustrated by a lack of focus.

Performance

Performance is a vital aspect of music making. Students are expected to participate in studio recitals. I encourage all students to seek out performance opportunities including solo festivals, performing at church, school, and for family, and friends.

Lesson Termination

I require two weeks notification if the student and their parent decides to end lessons. Regardless of when I receive notice, the family is financially responsible for the next two weeks of lessons. It does not matter if the student decides to attend or be absent.

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

Student: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____