

## **Business Practices: General Information**

The teaching year is divided into two sessions :

Summer Session : Variable number of lessons in July and August

Academic Session : 37 weekly Individual lessons; 10 monthly Group lessons

A detailed calendar is always available at : <http://geoPiano.Orduns.net/calendar.html>

The schedule for both sessions will be posted on-line in May.

Regular weekly individual lesson times are agreed upon and maintained for both the Summer and the Academic sessions. *Please be sure to consider your family's religious observances and vacation habits when selecting a regular lesson time. We do not close/reschedule for most Monday "holidays".*

Minimum recommended lesson length is initially 30 minutes and increases by 15 minutes for Books 2/3 (45 minutes); and again for Book 4 and up (60 minutes). While too long a lesson/practice time can be overwhelming, too short will often result in stagnation.

Make-up lessons will be provided in all cases when the teacher cancels.

Two (2) make-up lessons **per session** will be made available to students who *provide at least 24 hours notice* of cancellation.

## **Summer Session - July and August**

There are no group lessons during the summer session.

Regular weekly individual lesson times will be reserved for *only those weeks desired*.

Calculation and payment of tuition is handled as follows:

- Tuition will be calculated, based on the current rate, for all reserved weeks (rate\*hours\*weeks)
- Tuition for the full Summer Session is due at the **first** summer lesson.

Fees for materials such as professional recordings of the literature and supplemental music reading and theory books will be collected at the time they are distributed.

## **Academic Session - September through June**

During the academic year, group lessons are scheduled in the afternoon of the first or second Sunday of each month as indicated on the published calendars. Group lesson assignments and times are generally determined based on the number of students in each age group. Students who miss a Group Lesson will cover the material included there during their next individual lesson.

Calculation and payment of tuition is handled as follows:

- “Adjusted” rate includes piano maintenance, group lessons, recitals, etc.
- Tuition for the entire session is calculated as: adjusted rate \* hours \* 37 weeks
- That tuition is rounded and divided by 10, giving a monthly payment amount
- The monthly tuition payment is due at the first individual lesson of each month

Fees for materials such as professional recordings of the literature and supplemental music reading and theory books will be collected with the first monthly tuition payment after distribution.

## **Notes from the Teacher**

- ***Listen early, listen often.***  
The Suzuki Method is built around the same concepts as learning a language. It cannot be accomplished without hearing, over and over, what it is *supposed* to sound like.
- ***Practice daily.***  
Even if you can't do the whole assignment, do what you can and continue the next day from wherever you left off. Sporadic practice *guarantees* glacially slow progress.
- Come to your lesson ***on time.***  
While we all try to accommodate the vicissitudes of Northern Virginia traffic, it's awkward to ask the next student (or my dinner :-)) to wait while we run into the next time slot.
- Come ***prepared.***  
If you haven't listened, I need to play for you. Who wants to sit there listening to me play Book 1? If you haven't practiced, we'll do it together. Supervised practice is not nearly as much fun as a lesson!
- Keep your ***nails*** trimmed and clean.  
Even supervised practice is more fun than supervised manicures!
- If you don't understand, ***ask***, the sooner the better.  
Practicing incorrectly only confirms errors which take extra lesson and practice time to fix.