Private Lesson Studio Policy
Olga Talroze, Piano

Teaching Philosophy and Goals

My teaching style is an integration of the Russian school elements, such as emphasis on technique, thorough understanding of music notation, and performance, into more individualized, creative, flexible and positive reinforcement based Western approach. I believe that as a teacher, one can challenge students and strive for perfection, while maintaining warm, supportive, and positive atmosphere. Based on over 20 years of teaching I know that anyone can make progress, and benefit from learning to play a musical instrument, regardless of age or previous training.

Required Materials

- pencil
- metronome (smart phone app, or separate digital device)
- ring binder
- notebook
- instrument at home - acoustic piano (upright or baby grand is ideal), but, if not possible, good quality digital piano is fine, as long as it has 88 weighted keys and both left and right foot pedals.

Areas of focus
Technique, rhythm, thorough understanding of music notation, basics of theory (as time allows), and performing skills.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Practice
There is no one-size-fits-all answer. It depends on age, level, priorities and time constraint. I am fully aware that students are incredibly busy and for most of them music is only one of their daily activities. I understand that there might be some periods of time (such as, for example, school final exams) when practice might have to be reduced or might not be possible at all. That being said, in general, without consistent practice no satisfying progress is possible. Moreover, I believe that consistent and effective practice is far more important in making progress then innate abilities.

5 times a week (not counting the lesson) is ideal, but if it's not possible, at least 3 times a week is recommended. The length of practice sessions varies, depending on age, level, and time constraints.

(OVER)
Recitals:
In my studio, we typically hold 3 Studio recitals per year (December holiday concert, late February or beginning of March, and end of the year/June classical concerts.) In addition, WCMS provides numerous opportunities to perform throughout the academic year- depending on the age and level, I will be informing you of those that are appropriate for you. I strongly recommend performing as often as possible- it provides structure, motivation, helps with overcoming performance anxiety and with developing performing skills. Music is a PERFORMING art, after all.

To Get in Contact:
Either email or text. I am usually able to reply the same day, between 3.00 pm-midnight.

How to report a student absence: Please contact the WCMS main office by calling 781-721-2950, or me directly – you may leave a message at wcms@winchestermusic.org. Absences reported 24 hours in advance of the lesson time are considered an excused absence. Less than 24 hours in advance are unexcused absences.

WCMS Make up Policy: One excused absence from private lessons per semester will be made up. A student absence must be reported to the WCMS office 24 hours in advance to be considered an excused absence. There are no make-ups for classes or ensembles missed by the student. All lessons, classes and workshops missed because of teacher absence or school closing will be made up. Make-up lessons may be given during or between semesters. Make-up lessons missed by a student for any reason will not be rescheduled or refunded.

Health and Safety: For updates about the WCMS response to COVID-19, please refer to the COVID-19 page of our website (https://www.winchestermusic.org/covid-19-information)