

2011-2012 GENERAL POLICIES

WELCOME TO ALL NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS! In all Studio policies and documents, we use the words “student(s),” “you,” “your,” “families,” and “parent(s)” to refer jointly to the student enrolled in lessons; to the parent or custodian who signs the registration form (if student is under age 18); and, to anyone who may visit the Studio or Studio-related events regarding an enrolled or formerly enrolled student. We use the words “we,” “teacher,” “our,” and “Studio” to refer jointly to Studio Horowitz, LLC; its contractors and employees; and the places where lessons and/or events take place. We use the words “lessons” and “classes” interchangeably.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR All students are expected to demonstrate an interest in learning to play which is reflected both in their demeanor at lessons and their at-home preparation. Lessons are, in part, a give-and-take between teacher and student; we try hard to adapt to the interests and abilities of our students, and we expect students to be similarly flexible in adapting to our expectations. We will not continue to teach students who are consistently under-prepared or poorly behaved.

AT-HOME PREPARATION The importance of regular practice cannot be overstated and is essential to any serious music study. Practice time and practice quality must be sufficient to make clear and observable progress on a weekly basis. Students of all ages are expected to practice 6 days a week and make a good-faith effort to complete teachers' assignments. The minimum at-home time requirement for all students, regardless of age or level, is 3 hours per week. Young beginners may gradually work up to this; advanced students may be asked to spend more time.

SUPERVISING PRACTICE AT HOME For all students under age 9, and for many older students, at-home practice is a collaborative effort between parent and child. Parents must provide students with whatever level of supervision is necessary for the student to consistently make progress on their assigned pieces.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: THE PRACTICE INSTRUMENT In all cases, it is necessary to have a practice instrument in the home! A traditional acoustic piano is highly desirable and strongly recommended for all students. However, any keyboard with at least 61 full-sized keys is acceptable for a student's first few lessons. By the end of the first semester, a full-sized digital piano with weighted keys (or acoustic piano) is required. Students with three or more years' experience must upgrade to an acoustic piano. Acoustic pianos should be tuned and serviced about once a year.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: METRONOME You may buy your own or you may purchase one from the Studio.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: DIGITAL AUDIO RECORDER You are welcome to audio record all or part of your lesson(s). Required for students with more than three years' experience; optional for adults.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: PEDAL EXTENDER Required for any student whose feet don't reach the floor when sitting flat on the bench. You may rent a pedal extender from the Studio, or you may purchase your own. For beginners not making regular use of the pedals, a sturdy foot stool is an acceptable alternative.

FINGERNAILS Students must be willing to keep their fingernails reasonably short.

PARENT OBSERVATION OF CLASSES Parent/caregiver observation in class is essential for the success of the youngest students. A parent or accompanying adult should attend and observe classes/lessons until at least age 8. Parents of older students should observe at least the first four lessons. After this point, parent/caregiver observation is always welcome and encouraged. If scheduling, child-care, or transport difficulties prevent a parent from attending class on occasion, it is preferable to have the student there without a parent than to miss the class.

SUPERVISION OUTSIDE OF SCHEDULED CLASSES Supervision is not provided outside of the scheduled lesson time.

SHOES, FOOD, AND DRINK Not allowed in the teaching rooms.

LENDING LIBRARY Students may, on occasion, be loaned books, recordings, or other items from the Studio's library. Students will be charged for the full replacement cost of any items that are lost or damaged.

RECITALS AND CLASSES All students must be willing and able to participate in occasional recitals, rehearsals, special classes and other events. Some of these may be optional; some may be mandatory. There may be an additional charge for some events.

BRANCHES GROUP CLASSES Most students in grades 4 through 11 with three or more years' prior experience are expected to participate in these supplementary classes, which meet in addition to the individual lesson approximately seven times during the school year.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS The Studio reserves the right to arrange for lessons to be taught by a teacher other than the student's regular teacher (substitute) on occasion.

INCLEMENT WEATHER Closures are very rare; the Studio does not follow public schools' closings.

PRIVACY AND IMAGES The Studio may share your name, phone number, and email address with other students for the purposes of arranging lesson swaps or other Studio-related activities, but otherwise will keep your personal information private. We will not loan, rent, or sell your personal information. Photographs of students and parents may be taken for the Studio's photo album and/or for promotional purposes. Audio/video recordings of student performances and music compositions created by students may be retained by the Studio for educational or promotional use.

DAMAGE TO THE STUDIO Parents are solely responsible for anything that may be damaged, stained, or broken by anyone in their care for any reason.

LIABILITY WAIVER Students and/or parents agree to waive any claim(s) of liability against the Studio or any of its instructors, contractors or employees for injury while on its premises or attending its activities.