



# *Teaching Philosophy & Terms of Tuition 2024*

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*Updated version 29 February 2024*

*All lessons are private lessons  
that can be in person or online.*



# Teaching Philosophy

*To create motivating, enjoyable lessons which develop and nurture pianists' skills and musical understanding so they can play the music they enjoy.*

*I believe music helps build confidence and skills that transfer to other aspects of our lives keeping the brain stimulated and that it helps us to relax.*

## *Goals*

- *To encourage and support lifelong learning and enjoyment of playing the piano, from school aged children through to the elderly. This includes playing and learning music for enjoyment, or other goals.*
- *To provide different ways to learn with a variety of technology and resources.*
- *Teaching pianists to read notation, understand chords and rhythm, and to apply theoretical learning to be able to play classical or popular music*
- *Playing with a healthy technique,.*
- *Developing a practice technique as well as individual goal setting,*
- *To create a studio community to support and become inspired by each other.*
- *Having opportunities to learn to perform, opportunities to share music with the wider Upper Hutt community, a parent programme, sharing successes, watching professional performances together and creating opportunities for adult students' by having playing/social events.*

**-Developing, Nurturing and Mentoring Pianists-**

# Tuition

Tuition fees cover:

- Lesson time,
- Preparing individualised plans for each student's course of study
- Report writing, videos and communication
- Ongoing training and experience,
- Professional organisation memberships
- Music lending library and studio licensing to Supersonics Piano
- Printing, Certificates, Prizes
- Games and equipment including notebooks and scrapbooks
- Studio Incentive programmes.
- Licensing to Rockoutloud Live for online lessons
- Please note: Additional event fees may be required for Competitions, Exams or IRMTNZ events.

# Fees

Tuition is spread equally over the course of a year and charged each month in advance, starting February 1 each year. This monthly payment guarantees the student's place in my studio and covers the costs of lessons and enrolment. This means that whether there are 5 or 2 lessons in that month, the tuition fee is exactly the same.

1. **Monthly fees for 30 minute lessons are \$145 until January 2025.**
2. **Fortnightly lessons (only available to current students are \$74.00)**
3. **Casual lessons \$42.**
4. All amounts are in \$NZD and include GST.
5. From 2024 GST will be added to IRMT advertised pricing and Trinity and ABRSM exam fees.
6. **Payment is due on the 15th of the month.**
7. Payment can be made by bank transfer or

credit card, Apple Pay or Google Pay (online transactions). Please note there is a 3.0% Stripe surcharge for credit cards, Apple Pay and Google Pay).

8. **A late payment fee of \$20 applies if fees are not paid by the due date. If this is unresolved it may result in the termination of lessons and debt collection passed on to Guardian Credit Services.**
9. Students will need to purchase method books and other music on occasion throughout the year.
10. Printing/binding charges are generally covered in the fees unless there is a specific digital music purchase or printing request.

# Studio Calendar

- Weekly students will receive at least 46 lessons each year.
- Fortnightly students should expect to receive 23 lessons per year.
- Lessons are taught during the year Tuesday-Sunday.
- Other non teaching days are Christmas Day, through to January 15th, Matariki,
- ANZAC Day, Easter fGood Friday , Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday).
- When I have performances that affect lesson times there is no charge for the lesson if a makegood cannot be scheduled.

# Schedule/Lesson Renewal

- Lessons are scheduled at a mutually agreed time when the you begin lessons.
- If you wish to change your lesson time during the year, the new time will be subject
- to availability.
- Your lesson time is automatically renewed for the same time each year.

# Discontinuing Lessons

- If you wish to finish lessons, please provide notice by email.
- Students will continue to receive the lessons they've paid for until the end of the month
- when the termination will take effect.
- Refunds will not be issued.

## Missed Lessons/ Absences

- Missed lessons due to forgetfulness, illness or holidays are not refundable.
- Exceptions will be made for pro-longed sicknesses and extenuating circumstances on an individual basis. Where possible I will reschedule, but this may not always be possible.
- If a student will be missing their lesson for any reason they should inform me by text or email, with as much notice as possible so we can organise an online lesson or a makegood. If I have another time free that week (such as another student's cancellation) I will offer it, although I cannot guarantee availability. Missed lessons may not always be able to be carried over into subsequent weeks.
- If for any reason I have to cancel a lesson, I will offer a make-up lesson at a different time, or a longer lesson during the school holidays. If a suitable time can not be arranged, I will refund the cost.

## Sickness and Covid-19

- If you have been (or are) unwell or if you have been near a family member who is sick, please think of others.
- If you or your child has been unable to attend school/work due to illness you can convert your lesson to an online lesson or may need to cancel.
- If you cancel within 24 hours of your lesson a 100% cancellation fee will apply. I will try to convert this to a makeup lesson if one is available.
- If you or family member has tested positive for Covid-19 please let me know and we can change our lesson to an online lesson if you are well enough.
- If I test positive for Covid-19 I will swap to online lessons if I am well enough or credit the lessons if I am unable to teach
- All Government recommendations and advice from the IRMTNZ will be adopted

## Extended Time Off

- If you need time off lessons for extended periods of time to travel extensively or to work through life events, please let me know as soon as possible.
- With a full studio and waitlist, I am unable to hold lesson spots for lengthy periods of times for holidays or time away from lessons at no charge.
- Options include being a priority on my waitlist when you return, or paying 50% of the tuition fee to hold your lesson time.

## Student Responsibilities

- Students /parents are responsible for arriving at lessons on-time, with correct books and having completed their practice.
- Please remove footwear and wash your hands in the bathroom before beginning your lesson. An individual towel will be provided.
- Students should practice to achieve goals.
- Late arrival times will not be made up as I often have other students or commitments immediately around lesson times.
- If your home instrument is an acoustic piano, please ensure it is regularly tuned.
- If your home instrument is a digital piano, please ensure it has an adjustable padded bench and a fully weighted action.

## Health and Safety and Families in Lessons

- On special occasions family members can attend a lesson. For the most part due to the size of my music room, and needing to stay well, it is requested that the lesson time be for the student only.
- Please remove outside shoes on arrival as the floor is used for theory and music games.
- Please wash your hands before lessons.
- I teach with the air purifier running and wearing a face mask.

# Multiple Teachers

- *Piano lessons and goals are planned exclusively for you/your child.*
- *If another teacher is teaching you or your child, this can be confusing.*
- *I reserve the right to discontinue lessons under these circumstances.*
- *If you are learning another instrument I will work to ensure that both teachers are not specifically teaching theory and aural as approaches and methods may differ.*

# Practice

- *Regular home practice is essential for progress and success. Ideally, students should aim for several practice sessions a week (excluding their lesson).*
- *Parental involvement in home practice helps students succeed. There will be faster progress if a parent helps their child establish (and stick to) a practice routine free of distractions.*
- *If you are the parent of a Primary or Intermediate school aged student, please plan to sit with your child for at least a portion of their practice.*
- *If circumstances prevent practice for a week, please continue to come to lessons. Sometimes students may feel stuck and need additional help, or they may need to start over or work on a new piece.*

# Exams

- *Students wishing to sit practical music or theory exams will need to have been learning with me for at least one year before I will enter them for an exam. I need this time to ensure they are ready, that exams are the right thing for them and to cover areas missing in a student's prior musical education.*
- *Students looking to take exams should be aware that this takes a huge amount of effort, determination and stamina and can significantly reduce the time available to other musical pursuits.*
- *Extra lessons may be required and students will need to be prepared to sit a mock exam with another teacher before they are examined.*
- *Students are entered for exams only when they are fully prepared. This is to avoid the situation where a student has to be pulled out of an exam due to lack of preparation. If proceeding; students may choose to sit Trinity Exams, or ABRSM (theory only).*

# Performances

- *Studio-wide performances are scheduled 2-3 times a year, including evenings for adults students*
- *Performances are **voluntary**.*
- *All events and workshops will be promoted and discussed with each pianist.*
- *There are no additional fees for studio events.*

***I have read the Terms and Conditions and agree to the terms outlined***

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Student/Parent

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Date