

**Bradley Sowash**

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Web:

www.bradleysowash.com

2010-2011 Bradley Sowash Music Studio Policy

Schedule

One hour lessons are scheduled every other week between 1:00 and 6:00 Tuesdays - Thursday. I ask for a commitment from the first lesson through early June.

Practice Expectations

With only two lessons per month, students must understand that musicians ultimately teach themselves through consistent practice, listening, reading and investigation. My job is to provide theoretical instruction, tease out the student's artistry, and identify the next steps required for improvement. Generally 30 minutes of practice for intermediate and 45 minutes for advancing students is encouraged. However, efficiency is more important than the amount of practice time which is why emphasize how to get the most out of practice in the lessons.

Make- up Lessons

The time scheduled for each student's lesson is reserved for his or her exclusive use; rescheduling is not guaranteed. Notification by the student of inability to attend a private lesson does not excuse payment for the lesson, which must be paid for, whether taken or missed. Unavoidable absences will be made up when possible according to your payment preference (see below) and are not guaranteed be private. If more than one student attends a make-up lesson, we will focus on learning a new tune as a group. Lessons that must be made up due to conflicts with my schedule will be rescheduled at a mutually agreeable time and will remain private.

Weather and Holiday Policy

Lessons are generally taught regardless of weather conditions. If you are uncomfortable driving in inclement weather, the lesson will be rescheduled providing you call to notify the studio that you are not coming. Lessons that fall on national holidays will be rescheduled at a mutually agreeable time.

A La Carte Lessons

Intermittent lessons can be arranged without a long term commitment. "A la carte" lessons are scheduled as needed and subject to availability at an instructional rate of \$75 per lesson. Payment is required at each a la carte lesson and there are no make-ups for missed a la carte lessons. A la carte lessons may also be arranged by students desiring extra lessons or guaranteed private makeups.

Summer Lessons

Students desiring lessons June – August may schedule them as available on a pay-as-you-go basis at the regular instructional rate.

Schedule

The studio calendar is always accurate and up to date. It may be viewed anytime at <http://bradleysowash.com/studio.htm>

To schedule your regular slot or arrange a makeup lesson, please check the calendar and then contact Melanie, the studio administrator at: mjmurray226@aol.com

Dismissal

When a student's priorities change, it is usually evident by poor attendance or preparation. Students who are chronically late, absent or unprepared for their lessons may be asked to relinquish their slot at the end of a quarter for a more committed or eager student on the waiting list.

Withdrawal

Students may withdrawal at any time with two weeks notice. However, tuition is non-refundable. Terminating lessons never involves hard feelings on my part. I understand that music is just one part of very full lives and I know that sometimes students discover a renewed interest in music and return to it year or two later because it happened to me.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees include private lessons September through early June, festival and event preparation, administrative and overhead costs (handouts, student library ...) administrative and preparation time.

- \$1300 annual tuition - \$65 per lesson - same as last two years!
- A la carte lessons - \$75 per lesson
- You will be asked to purchase music instruction books periodically.
- Participation fees for optional student events - generally \$5 - \$25 per event.

Payment Options

- One payment of \$1300 due on or before first Sept. lesson which entitles you to three makeup lessons for the academic year.
- 2 equal payments of \$650 due on or before first Sept. lesson and first Dec. lesson which entitles you to two makeup lessons for the academic year.
- 3 equal payments, of \$434 due on or before first Sept. lesson, first Dec. lesson, and first Mar. lesson which entitles you to one makeup lesson for the academic year.

There is a \$10 fee for late payments. All fees paid are non-refundable.

Student Library

When I feel owning an entire book is unnecessary, I often loan books from my extensive student library. I don't have a formal checkout system so please remember to return loaned books. Also, if you have music books that you no longer use, feel free to donate them to my student library.

Optional Materials

- Band in a Box software (about \$99)
- Finale Notepad music notation software (\$9.95)

Required Materials

- Music books as assigned
- Three ring notebook for assignments, sheet music and handouts
- USB flash drive (\$5 – 7 at Target or computer stores)
- Computer with an internet connection located near the practice keyboard or piano
- A willingness to try new ways of making music with a can do attitude and friendly smile!

Optional Activities

- Performance Class is an informal pre-scheduled group lesson where students play a polished piece for the other students. The listening students fill out listening forms noting their compliments and observations. I don't count this lesson in my tuition, so in essence, it is free and optional.
- Scale Olympics is an amazing event that gives students the opportunity to set goals in the areas of technique and theory. Students may enter any number of the eight events offered: Scales, Cadences, Arpeggios, Triads, Harmonization, Transposing, Sight Reading and Theory. Each event is offered at eight levels of difficulty so all students – even beginners – can participate. Students are awarded ribbons, based on points, for each event they enter. This year's event will take place on Saturday, December 4 at Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio.
- Chamber Music Connection offers string, wind, and piano students the opportunity to hear, see, and work with world-class chamber music ensembles in concerts, master classes, and workshops. Based on their prior experience in chamber music and their age and skill level, participants are placed in groups of three, four, and five, allowing for an intimate learning experience. Piano players often lack ensemble playing experience. This is a great way to get it! Learn more at <http://cmconnection.org/>
- Jazz Academy Classes are designed to engage all ages and interests, from pre-school children to senior citizens, guitar players to aspiring producers, and students to teachers. The Jazz Academy connects people, starts conversations and inspires music making – a place where anyone can listen, learn and play. Jazz Arts Group opened the Jazz Academy community instructional space in the newly restored and historic Lincoln Theatre complex for multi-generational and recreational music making, ensemble playing, after-school programs, technology instruction and lectures with world-class musicians. Learn more at <http://www.jazzartsgroup.org/jazz-academy/jazz-in-the-community/classes>