

Welcome to the wonderful challenge of piano study! The following guidelines are provided so that we can begin with a common understanding.

**PRACTICE:** Having a regular time set aside each day for practice is strongly recommended. The length of time spent practicing may vary for each student. The focus should be on awareness of goals and daily progress made for each element of the assignment.

**LESSON ATTENDANCE:** Punctual arrival at the lesson is necessary. At the last lesson of each calendar month, we review the schedule for coming weeks. Lessons missed due to illness or family emergency will be made up or credited to the following month. Lessons missed by the teacher will also be made up or credited. Lessons missed for other reasons will not be made up or credited. Twenty-four hours advance notice of cancellation is requested.

**YOUR PIANO:** Your piano should be in a quiet area of your home so that you can practice without distraction. It should be kept in good repair, and it should be tuned at least once a year. The best times of year for tuning are after the heating season has settled in and again just after the heating season ends, if needed. This gives the piano time to adjust to the changes in humidity before the tuning is done. Ideally, the humidity should be consistent at about forty percent. In addition, good lighting, a piano bench adjusted to the proper height, and space for books and materials are needed.

**PERFORMANCE:** Performance opportunities for adults can be arranged as desired. Younger students are encouraged to participate in any of several joint student recitals held throughout the school year. Recitals are sponsored by the local teachers association, so they include students from several studios. Also, a few times each year, students can play for the residents of senior assisted-living centers in the area.

**LISTENING:** Listening can greatly enhance the piano study program. There are many concerts in our area. Radio and television also offer many fine concerts. The local library has an extensive audio collection as well.

**PAYMENT:** It is customary for fees to be paid by the month, in advance, at the first lesson of the month. Other arrangements can be made in advance. Fees include miscellaneous materials but do not include the cost of books. You will be notified of book fees as they arise - they are to be included in the next month's payment. Reminders about lesson and book fees are provided. The fee for each 60 minute lesson is \$40.00. There is no charge for the initial meeting, and there is no obligation to enroll after the initial meeting.

**GOALS, BACKGROUND:** My primary goal is for each student to build a connection with music, particularly piano music. We work toward literacy and fluency in this special language. In addition to learning new music, we work on skills for sight-reading, ear training, theory, technique, and performance. I have a liberal arts degree from Sarah Lawrence College and I have been teaching a few students each year since 1966.

Please feel free to bring up any questions or concerns you may have.

THANK YOU

PIANONORTE  
Sarah Williams  
796 North Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602  
802-223-5307  
[sarah5432@gmail.com](mailto:sarah5432@gmail.com)