

Helen R. Weems Piano Studio



weemspiano.com

5473 Green Dory Lane, Columbia, MD 21044

Tel. 410-997-7524

STUDIO POLICY -- 2017/2018 STUDIO YEAR

Thank you for choosing me as your piano teacher. To ensure that my students receive the most effective and creative teaching possible, I have established the following policies.

TUITION AND PAYMENT

Tuition for the Studio Year is \$XXXX for weekly 45-minute lessons, and \$XXXX for weekly 60-minute lessons, and is prorated into **10 monthly payments of \$XXX and \$XXX** each, respectively**. Tuition pays for (minimum) 34 private lessons**, six repertory classes, a studio recital, and local events. Tuition is in effect for the Studio Year (September 1-June 30). An attendance/events/payments record is in your child's binder.

Tuition is due monthly by the seventh; past the tenth please include a \$10 late fee. Please make checks payable to "Helen Weems." "BillPay" and multi-payments are welcome. Two-hour lessons for \$XX each or 1-hour lessons for \$XX each are available by appointment beyond the regular schedule.

A \$75 deposit for each student, due by June 29, 2017, reserves a slot for fall. Music and fee expenses and a \$10 charge for the spring recital venue will be deducted from this deposit. This account is settled in the June 2018 tuition. Deposit is non-refundable if you terminate lessons between payment and June 28, 2018.

PRACTICE, PROGRESS, AND VALUE

All beginning students are expected to practice 30-40 minutes a day, and intermediate/advanced students 45-60 minutes, six days a week. Breaking up the rehearsal time throughout the day promotes progress and aids schedule management. I also expect listening and written work to be completed as assigned weekly. Parental involvement is crucial, and parents are invited to attend lessons to see what is expected. At home, sitting to listen to your child play even once a week plays a valuable role in their motivation.

To maximize progress, parents must provide a tuned piano and regular, timely arrivals to lessons, classes and events. Students who practice daily, complete weekly assignments, and who rarely miss lessons and classes/concerts progress the most, enjoy their music, and get the most value from tuition!

2017-18 IMPORTANT STUDIO DATES (updated @ weemspiano.com and in advance notifications)

July 26 RITA'S Rep @ 10am; **September 3** Kick-Off Rep @ 4pm; **October 15** Fall Rep @ 4pm; **November 23** Studio Closed; **December 2** Holiday Rep @ 4pm; **December 25-28** Studio Closed; **January 13** Winter Rep @ 4pm; **March 3** B2N Rep @ 4pm; **April 22** Spring Rep @ 1pm; **April 22** Santiago Rodriguez Master Class @ HCC 3pm; **April 29** The Spring Concert @ 7:30pm (Christ Episcopal in Columbia); **May 5** pianist Benjamin Grosvenor @ HCC 8pm; **June 5-8** Studio Closed; **June 27** "Movie/Pizza/Ice Cream" Rep @ 6pm.

Mission Statement, Studio Protocol, Absence Policy, etc. ►

STUDIO PROTOCOL

Students should arrive at their lessons -- with trimmed nails and all assigned music -- no sooner than 5 minutes before lesson time, and parents should be on hand to collect children when the lesson time ends.

Please do not bring gum, **food**, or drink (other than bottled water) into the studio and residence. **Wheat must not enter the residence without my knowledge; do not bring in food.** During snow events, please use neighborly judgment when parking. If coughing or sneezing a lot, please do not sit at the dining table.

Conversations with parents are welcome at the beginning of the student's lesson, or by telephone (please wait until after 9am). A dinosaur in good standing, I do not text, and I only email to exchange images or to FaceTime lessons. I do not receive schedule requests or cancellations via email.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION EVENTS FOR STUDENTS

I have Permanent Professional Certification with the Music Teachers National Association, and am president of the local chapter of MTNA. At my invitation, my students may participate in these organizations' events.

ABSENCE POLICY

There are no refunds for lessons missed, and make-ups are not guaranteed. Given advance notice (by phone or in person), missed lessons may be made up if another slot comes available. When mild (but contagious) illness or impassible roads (e.g. snow/ice) prevent you from attending your lesson, e-lessons (FaceTime/Skype/telephone) serve as a convenient substitution for all, and keep the student on schedule.

I will take several weeks for personal use. You will be notified well in advance of these dates, and monthly payments remain the same. A record of lessons/events/payments is in your child's binder.

**Alternative February 2018 arrangements: If the studio closes from February 6-28, the February tuition payment falls to \$XX (for students taking 45 minute lessons) and \$XX (for students taking 60 minute lessons). This payment is for one studio lesson at the beginning of February, and one (reduced-length) e-lesson in the middle of February. Minimum number of lessons drops to 32. Advance notice will be given.

TERMINATION OF LESSONS

Termination involves planning for the student's ongoing musical life. If you discontinue lessons during the time this policy is in effect, please give notice.

HELEN R. WEEMS STUDIO'S FOURFOLD MISSION

To encourage students to enjoy playing piano for themselves and others; to nurture student discipline; to teach musical literacy; to graduate students who can play and learn music that pleases and delights them.

