

# **The Cynthia Duszynski School of Music**

## **Statement of School Policy**

### **My Philosophy of Music**

Music is a part of living. No one can go through life without being touched by some kind of music. Some of us participate in music, while the rest of us sit alongside and enjoy it. Nothing else runs the full gambit of hate, love, fulfillment, joy, frustration or sadness as does the sound of music. As an educator, it is my desire to give all of my students an enjoyable music education that will enrich their entire life.

Nothing gives me more pleasure than helping a person, young or old, read and write through music. If I can straighten out hard spots in math through the rhythmic structure of music, then I have proven how important music can be in the basic education structure. If as a music educator, I can teach a student to paint a picture through music, then they can more readily enjoy and appreciate any and all surrounding beauty.

There is not a day that goes by without hearing some form of music or musical tones. It is what the brain decides to do with what we hear daily that forms our opinions, likes and dislikes of sounds. In educating, if I can teach and have students desire to keep an open mind musically, their potential and understanding of music would bring them to new heights.

Music must and is a part of life of every educated person.

### **What is Expected of...**

#### THE TEACHER

- \* establishes tuition to be paid in advance by the first lesson of that four month semester.
- \* determines the music, length of practice, and scheduled time for that weekly lesson.
- \* maintains memberships in professional organizations and strive for musical growth.
- \* terminates lessons when the student is irregular in attendance, repeatedly fails to prepare assigned material or is very disruptive in class.
- \* maintains close and personal contact with the parent to ensure that he / she is getting the most from their lessons.
- \* makes learning a pleasure and educational experience so that they learn all the different aspects of music, not just notes.

#### THE STUDENT

- \* arrives and is ready for their weekly lesson punctually, well-prepared with all the necessary materials and books.
- \* schedules DAILY practice at the same time each day, without distractions.
- \* takes advantage of performance opportunities provided by teacher and obtains CONSENT from the teacher for all other performances.
- \* acknowledges the study of music and must be willing to make it an undisputed place among all interests and hobbies.

#### THE PARENT

- \* supports the fulfilling of the students responsibility and encourage progress.
- \* provide a well-tuned acoustic ( not electric ) piano, piano lamp and metronome to study on.
- \* promptly pay and show for lessons.

## **Requirements for Learning**

Every teacher has his or her own method of teaching. There are a few very important requirements that parents and students must realize when beginning to teach a new or transfer student.

- A. It has been proven that repetition is a strong basis for storing information. It is required therefore, that each student have a good working tape recorder and CD player. Please buy three tapes of better quality to use solely for piano. Bring them to the first lesson please.
- B. In order to create music, the student must have an acoustical (not electric) piano that is in great working order. Your piano should be tuned once or twice a year. If you require the name of a piano tuner, please call us or email us and we will forward the information to you. If a key or any part of the piano is not in working order, it is the parents responsibility to call the tuner immediately. If not taken care of properly, you hinder your child's musical growth. Upkeep on your piano is a must for a maximum learning experience.
- C. Rhythm is a very important part of music. Therefore, all students are required to purchase a metronome through me at a discount or on your own. Do not purchase one with a bell if possible.
- D. Proper lighting is something that can enhance your child's musical growth. Every piano must have a PIANO LAMP OVER their music, not beside it or hanging from a ceiling, for maximum lighting.
- E. As in studying anything, a quiet room without distractions is the only way to learn. Please do not have a television or telephone on in that room while the student is practicing. Do not answer the phone while practicing your lesson.

## **Getting in Touch**

You are welcome to call me for any reason at **262-679-3575** preferably during the day. If I am unavailable, please leave a message with the time and date you are calling and I will return the call as soon as possible. I do have caller ID and call waiting caller ID, so if you do not get the answering machine, I am probably on the line with another call and will call you after I am done with the other call. Please try to avoid calling on Sundays unless it is absolutely necessary. Thank you.

## **Missing Lessons**

Lesson appointments belong solely to the student scheduled thereto. Lessons are given on a weekly basis with a specific number of lessons per semester. There are NO make-up lessons for after school sports activities. A 24 hour notice is required due to illness. Emergencies and natural causes are understandable and will always be made-up if the parent chooses to. If the teacher is sick, you will not pay for that lesson if the teacher chooses not to make it up.

There are no credits, exchanges or refunds given on lessons because the services of the teacher are regulated by the time slots that are reserved for each student.

Time slots for a one week scheduling problem are transferable. Any longer than that, they must be authorized by the teacher. If a time slot needs to be rearranged, the parent/student will have to call the family in the desired spot you wish to have for that given week. Each family will receive a schedule with names and phone numbers for your access. Once the schedule is switched for that week, the student desiring that switch must call and let the teacher know of the time change.

If the student is late for their lesson, they will receive whatever time is left of their allotted time. If the teacher is late, you will receive the entire lesson time. If you can get to the lesson a couple of minutes earlier, the student can practice on the digital piano and warm the fingers up and be ready to go. This will also help in maintaining a prompt schedule.

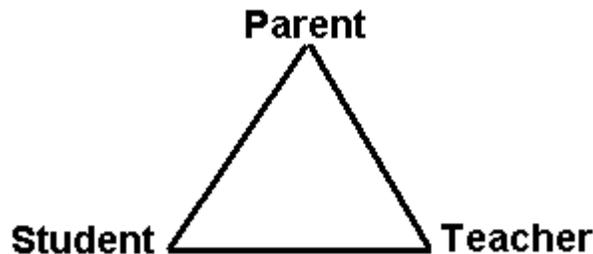
### **Termination of Lessons**

Lessons may only be terminated with a one month notice before the end of a semester. That would be the beginning of April, August or December. This must be done in writing with a date and reason for leaving the studio. If you are considering ending your child’s music education with the studio, I would like to know so that we can work together to help get over what could be just a hurdle. Many times it takes just an adjustment of the assignment, a new pop song, etc. to help the child breakout of the problem they are having or feeling. Upon receiving in writing the desire to leave the studio, the parent may finish out the semester or end the lessons at that point realizing there is no refund of lesson money. All book fee money will be returned within two months of the written notice.

If there is a prolonged illness or natural cause that you have no control over, you are welcome to leave and come back at a more suitable time.

The teacher has the right to terminate the student at any given time at which point, a refund of the unused lessons will be given along with any book fee money due.

Learning music must be a triangle of communication between the parent, student and teacher. If one point fails, the continuity is lost. Therefore, I need to know what is going on in the child’s life as well as the family’s life to create the best atmosphere and desire for learning. When this triangle is set solid between all of us, the child’s musical experience blooms greatly.



## **Requirements for Performing**

The only required performance is the annual Student Recital that takes place every April. This recital is for parents, grandparents and friends of the students. It is a formal recital and girls must be in dresses and boys in dress slacks, dress shoes, shirt and tie with an sports coat, sweater or vest. Parents are strongly encouraged to dress appropriately and to make this a special day of celebration for the child.

The studio also performs in several other areas that are not required, by the student but encouraged to try at least one, once. These performances are: Christmas Show at area nursing/retirement homes, and the National Federation of Music Clubs, Associated Piano Teachers, Wisconsin Music Teachers Association, Wisconsin School of Music Association and National Guild of Piano Teachers auditions. These are all held between February and May. (See page 14 for details on these organizations)

Please remember that performing is the only way that a student fully learns and gains control of a piece, so as to, better themselves as a musician. This also helps in developing self-esteem, discipline, poise, posture and mind control. Every student who has ever performed, grows to be a self-confident, reliable and secure person who is not afraid to take on a challenge.

### **Fine Arts Requirement**

In order to take lessons and grow as an educated musician, it is important that you observe and support the arts by attending concerts, plays, etc. on a professional and college level basis. Therefore, every student must attend two concerts or fine arts programs a year. These do not have to cost a lot of money and Rainbow Summer and MYSO programs are accepted as part of the requirement.

The following are NOT acceptable: Alpine Valley, Summerfest and all other fests or rock concert. No grade school or high school performances are acceptable. If you are not sure, ask me first.

Follow these guidelines to ensure proper credit on your requirements.

- A. Professional productions only.
- B. Only one pop artist a year allowed.
- C. Any college performance is acceptable if done by college age artist.
- D. The requirement does not have to be musical. Plays or any other type of production is fine.
- E. Two requirements are to be met each calendar year.
- F. You must fill out a requirement form which is found in the back of your notebook and return the completed form with a ticket stub or program to me within ONE MONTH of the performance. Any- thing after one month will not count towards the requirement.
- G. Group tickets will be offered from time to time for you and your family to take advantage of to help in directing you to worth- while concerts or plays.
- H. When going to the fine arts program, enjoy yourself and remember the rules of etiquette in concert affairs.

## **Practice Requirements**

In order for your child to make the progress that you would like to see, it is important that you follow the guidelines below to insure that you are getting the quality education that is being offered to your child.

1. Practice must be done every day and ideally at the same time each day.
2. Student must look at his/her notebook every day to know what is being expected of them. **DO YOUR THEORY THE NEXT DAY** to ensure that they remember what was taught the day before.
3. No answering the telephone, taking bathroom breaks or interruptions are allowed during practice time.
4. Parents are required to check-in on the child's practicing daily. Have a Sunday recital moment and gather family members and play your lesson for them to see how you are doing.
5. Student **MUST** practice the proper way that is taught to them. If not, the child will jeopardize taking lessons with me.
6. Every piece is to be practiced every day.
7. Extra practice time is necessary when days of practice are skipped. It is not possible to cram for a piano lesson, I know, I tried!
8. There should be pencil marks in the music throughout the years of study, made by the parents and students. Blank pages means the student is not focusing on details within the music well enough.
9. When taping or listening to a recording is required, parents are encouraged to sit and listen with the child and help them to hear difficult areas within a piece. It also builds a relationship and a sense of wanting to be a part of their musical experience.

## **Parent and Sibling Guidelines While at the Studio**

Parents and siblings are welcome to sit in the studio quietly or sit out on the patio during lesson time. Children are welcome to play on the swing set or in the playhouse, but not on the bikes please. Be sure that all the items in the playhouse are returned and that the top half of the door stays open at all times. Please minimize siblings coming in and out of the studio during the lesson time.

Boots, shoes especially tennis shoes and hiking boots in wet weather, should be put on the boot rack. Winter coats may be brought in the studio. Sweaters and jackets can be hung up on the hooks in the porch.

Parents **MUST** be with young children outside. Our baby-sitters and Terry are **NOT** responsible for watching your child/children.

Everyone is welcome to use the restroom as needed. Dirty, sticky hands should be washed before touching the keyboard or after playing outside. Please limit the amount of food eaten in the studio. Beverages should be in a covered cup.

Only students taking lessons are allowed to play on the digital piano with headphones on low. The studio is not responsible for any damage in hearing due to headphones being used too loud.

When parking, please park on the road or on only the blacktop but **NOT** on the concrete, please. If you know your car leaks, please park on the road. When backing up, **LOOK OVER YOUR LEFT (not right) SHOULDER** to avoid going in the culvert.

Please open the door in the cold weather when everyone is ready to enter the studio. This will keep all of us warmer throughout the lesson time. Thank you.

## **All About Me**

I am currently teaching private piano lessons out of my home studio. I have many students on a weekly basis. I have been teaching piano since the age of fourteen and hold memberships in several music organizations. Being Vice-president for the Wisconsin Music Teachers Association along with several other board positions throughout the years, has given me a greater understanding of quality music education on a private basis.

I hold a self-designed Piano Pedagogy Degree from Carroll College, Waukesha, Wisconsin. I have also been State and Nationally Certified through the National Music Teachers Association.

Some accomplishments in my music career are:

Eisenhower Swing Choir (4 years) in High School, along with the Outstanding Music Student four years consecutively.

Toured Europe and the United States with the Carroll College Carolleers as a dancer, singer and pianist.

Toured Europe with a select group of musicians called, The Friendship of Ambassador's, performing for more than 2,000 people throughout Italy, Austria, Romania and Hungary.

Performed in the Bob Hope Talent Search held in Kansas City, Missouri in 1977.

Voted the Outstanding College Student for 1990 by the Outstanding College Students of America Association.

Piano accompanist for the dancing and singing group, The Young Americans. This group toured Milwaukee and the United States.

A vocalist/pianist/organist for weddings and receptions. Also a cocktail pianist for area restaurants and hotels.

I performed in three touring bands as a pianist and vocalist over a twenty year period. The bands were: Morning Star, The Potter's Clay and The Inn Crowd.

An adjudicator for numerous piano competitions in various States.

A lecturer on the Wisconsin Music Teachers Association's lecture circuit for Wisconsin, talking to groups of piano teachers, students and professors on various music topics.

Composer of a civil war song entitled, "Go Walk the Hollowed Ground Someday", which is currently being marketed for possible publication in up-coming civil war movies and documentaries.

I enjoy gardening, home decor, travel, stain glass work and reading. I live with my husband Terry and home school our two children, Abbey and Benjamin.

## **Music Organizations**

The following associations listed, are organizations of which I am presently active in as a member. I have gained a tremendous amount of musical knowledge through these organizations. Many students have been using these clubs to better their musical ability and knowledge.

### **MILWAUKEE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (MMTA)**

This organization encourages and develops greater efforts in music among students and teachers. MMTA offers competitions and scholarships to gifted pianists. They also evaluate the teaching standards in our profession and promotes interest in our community.

### **MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (MTNA)**

This organization is one of the oldest musical clubs in our country having celebrated their 120th anniversary in 1996. They offer music educators around the country, conferences and financial aid in developing outstanding studios. Many professional ideas are exchanged, encouragement to grow in related music fields and provide musicians with outstanding equipment, supplies and literature in developing an outstanding pedagogical studio. I have been State and Nationally Certified through exams and education classes.

### **NATIONAL GUILD OF PIANO TEACHERS (NGPT)**

The basic aim of the NGPT has been to establish definite goals and awards for piano of all grades and levels including goals for the slow learner as well as the gifted. This is not a competition but an audition that allows another music educator to evaluate how your playing, posture and performance on the piano is coming along. This audition is held in late May of each year.

### **NATIONAL, FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS (NFMC)**

Cynthia Duszynski's Studio of Music Club offers all students and all types of areas of auditioning ( concerto, hymn, duet, etc.) to earn trophies and certificates. Two contrasting pieces are performed and judged on various musical abilities. This is a good audition for first time students.

### **WISCONSIN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (WMTA)**

The WMTA is a branch of the MTNA in which the organization strives to maintain the private piano teachers musical growth and studio management. Recitals and competition work is very strong in this organization.

### **GREATER MILWAUKEE CHAPTER OF WMTA (WMTA-GMC)**

The Greater Milwaukee Chapter is a small local association of the WMTA organization. Teachers meet to discuss problems in private teaching and they also have guest speakers come in and talk about various topics of musical interest and knowledge. This group tries to hold a community project every other year.

### **ASSOCIATED PIANO TEACHERS (APT)**

This is a local organization that was created by local area piano teachers to hold an annual piano audition for all ages of students. This contest brings a high level of standard to the teacher and student.

## **The Initial Interview**

As a serious educator I always like to meet with the new parents student to get acquainted with new prospective students. I ask that we set up a 45 minute interview at the studio to have the parents and student see the facility and have a chance to ask questions. It is at this point that I also test the student for their readiness in music and listen to repertoire that transfer students are currently playing.

There is a charge of my standard 45 minute fee that is to be paid in full at the end of the interview. After our meeting, you are welcome to take some time to consider joining my studio.

Please call at least one week in advance to set up an appointment to schedule this interview. Call 679-3575 with any questions.

After the initial interview, I will express my opinion regarding the child's musical ability and readiness to join me. Please remember that time slots will be accommodated as best as possible, but that the first choices go to the students who are already with my studio.

Many times I do have a waiting list, but I try to accommodate new students as best as possible. If my schedule does not have any openings at that time, I try to refer you to other teachers or you may wait on my waiting list until I get open times in the schedule.