

Isaac Music Studio Policies 2020-2021

Mrs. Natalie Isaac

Piano | Voice | Basic Music Theory | Beginner Ukulele
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*“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.”
— Plato*

These guidelines are what make Isaac’s Music Studio run smoothly and effectively to ensure an engaging and high quality musical experience for all.

Philosophy | This studio is committed to developing a comprehensive, fulfilling, and healthy music education to inspire a life-long passion for music and learning while growing one’s musical independence. All lessons are custom designed to meet the specific needs of each student and their unique skills and challenges. Students can anticipate a professional and positive attitude in an energetic, nurturing, and sensitive environment that promotes engaged learning.

Lessons Offered & Scheduling | Lessons are offered for piano, voice, elementary music theory, and beginning ukulele, or a hybrid of these skills for weekly 30 or 60 minutes. Most elementary students find a half lesson (30 minutes) is most satisfying for their needs, while many intermediate or advanced students desire a full lesson (60 minutes). I work with students to schedule regular times for lessons. Lesson times are subject to availability and are scheduled accordingly.

Location | Students have the option of either in-person or virtual lessons (Zoom, Google Meet, FaceTime). Both options are offered for accessibility, convenience, and health. In-person lessons will either be at my St. Monica classroom, the southside of Indianapolis at University Heights UMC, or my studio (my home). If a parent or sibling is accompanying and it is not distracting to the student, they may sit in a separate room during the lesson.

Lesson Payment

Lesson payment covers all studio charges including lesson instruction, preparation, planning, scheduling, research, and recitals. Additional events (competitions/festivals) or additional suggested books will be paid for by the student/parent. All payments are made digitally through Venmo. ([See Venmo Instructions HERE](#)) Lessons will be suspended pending on time payments.

Lesson Payments are due monthly on the first day of the month (September 1, October 1, etc.) via Venmo. Students can expect to have four (4) lessons each month according to their lesson plan. This allows more time focusing on music and less time asking “When do I need to pay for that lesson?”. Exceptions to this will be November and December, with 3 lessons each due to holidays/school breaks.

Charge for lessons is \$40 for a full lesson/\$20 for a half lesson. A month of full lessons will be \$160 paid on the first of the month. A month of half lessons will be \$80 paid on the first of the month.

Musical Repertoire | Students will perform high quality repertoire appropriate for their skill levels and growth goals. I will help build students' libraries by providing sheet music and recommending books or collections for purchase. We will select repertoire that is both enjoyable and educational. Life's too short to make music we don't love!

Practice | Like any skill, regular practice will increase one's abilities. Mrs. Isaac discusses realistic practice goals in relationship to the desired outcomes and goals with each student. Parents are asked to assist by providing a home environment conducive to healthy learning habits.

Missed Lessons

- If a student needs to cancel a lesson due to unforeseen circumstances, please notify me *24 hours at minimum* prior to the lesson to organize a virtual lesson at another time, otherwise the lesson will be charged in full and will not be made up at another time.
- Everyone's health is a priority. Students should stay home and do virtual lessons if they are showing any symptoms of sickness including fever, coughing, sneezing, etc or are directly exposed to people showing symptoms. If you're sick, please consider doing a virtual lesson; there's still a lot we can learn and work on when you are sick! Making music is great for the body, and most people leave feeling much better than when they started the lesson. However, if you're "really sick," then I prescribe no lesson, lots of water, and sleep.
- If a regular lesson time is not possible (due to vacation, conflicts, etc.), we may discuss this *in advance* and reschedule another time within the month if available.

Communication | Students, parents, and the instructor will communicate primarily through text for immediate ("today") needs/cancellations/information and email for more thorough or future ("tomorrow & beyond").

Recitals | We will host recitals periodically throughout the year, scheduled in advance. Students will have the opportunity to share their music with family and friends in these recital performances. Due to recent health concerns, dates will be scheduled later in the Fall Semester.

Mutual Respect | Private lessons are all about trust. I trust you to come into my studio and bring your best self to the studio, and you trust me to be present, aware and kind, bringing the best of my mental faculties and years of experience to your lesson.

- **Medical Issues** | Please let me know if you have any medical conditions or mental health issues that may affect your voice/body. Many medications affect the voice/body, and it is important for me to know how to help you keep your voice/body healthy.
 - **Communication** | Music and learning are all about communication. Learning is a two-way street! Be confident and comfortable asking questions, expressing frustration or discomfort, or anything you are thinking or experiencing. Let's work together.
 - **Safe Spaces and Boundaries** | I am not a therapist, nor do I pretend to be. However, singing and playing can be emotional. I have tissues.
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***Benefits of Studying Music**

Music study encourages abstract thought and stimulates right-brain activities--synthesis, creativity, intuition, and innovation--skills that are not adequately covered in other areas of the school curriculum.

Music study develops attention span and concentration level.

Music study enhances school readiness, fine motor control, use of symbol systems, following directions, concentration, memory, perseverance, visual and aural discrimination, organizational skills, task completion, and goal setting.

Music study builds self-esteem and develops initiative.

*2014 Research findings conducted by Dr. Frances Rauscher of the University of Wisconsin & Dr. Gordon Shaw of the University of California.