

BASSOON
CONTRABASSOON
PRIVATE LESSONS
MASTERCLASSES



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Cell: 847.302.9836

STUDIO POLICY (rev. August 2022)

GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

- Develop technical skills as a musician which will allow you to express yourself creatively and musically.
- Develop skills in listening, critiquing, and evaluating musical performances.
- Acquire skills in performance, practice techniques, setting and realizing goals, and assessment of weekly/quarterly accomplishments.
- To grow, musically and technically, on a consistent basis through the use of etudes, scale studies, as well as solo and ensemble repertoire.
- Regular use of small 'stepping' goals to aid in obtaining a large goal.
- To make lessons not only useful, but fun and interesting.
- To make the student enjoy and love music, and to appreciate listening to music.
- To use active listening and teach the use of critical listening skills in practice.
- To teach proper, and useful, practice techniques.

LESSON SCHEDULING:

Students meet with me every week. Lesson schedules are posted online at gerikfon.com/studiocalendar/

Please do not assume that I am aware of government holidays or school vacations; not all schools follow the same calendars, so please let me know if you will need to reschedule for a specific reason. Finally, if you haven't practiced, or if the bassoon is at the repair shop, please don't cancel your lesson--we can still make some musical progress, work on reeds, have a listening session, etc.

LESSON CONTENT:

In lessons we will work on warm-ups, tone production, tuning, scales, technical studies, and bassoon repertoire (a solo and/or duet). We may also work on school band music as needed, and any solos you wish to play for contests or asked to perform for school, church, etc., but lesson content comes first. If you are prepared for your lesson, we can then work on band music.

Students are responsible for providing their own music. While I have digital copies of many materials, relying on my copies shows a lack of preparation.

PROGRAM TUITION:

Tuition for the program is due by the 5th of every month. Invoices are Emailed late in the month from (quickbooks@notification.intuit.com; and Studio Plus Marketing as the company name) Tuition is based on the number of scheduled lessons per month. (plus consultations for instrument purchase, etc. as required) Please note that if you have to miss a regularly scheduled lesson you will be charged for that lesson time. Your monthly tuition is a retainer that reserves your time slot in my teaching schedule, missed lesson or not. Please see my cancellation policy below.

I will adjust lesson schedules in advance for each month based upon my performing schedule. If I cancel or reschedule lessons due to my performance calendar and you confirm the new times, they become binding as above. Near the end of each month I will send out invoices with a reminder to check the online schedule. Please notify me as soon as the month's schedule is posted if any irregular dates (i.e. non-normal day/time) are not possible, otherwise they become binding.

It is important that I receive payment on time. A late fee of \$20 will be added to any bill that is not paid by the first scheduled lesson of the month.

Payment methods: online (link with invoice email, preferred), or a check by mail.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

I understand that there will be times when you will need to cancel a lesson. There are NO refunds and no makeup lessons. I would like to emphasize that this is a program, not a pay-by-lesson arrangement. Your scheduled time is booked in my schedule, and cannot be made-up. I have a very full studio with no time available beyond the times I have scheduled lessons.

Unforeseen events beyond my control, such as bomb scares, snow days, etc. cannot be refunded. In rare cases I can attempt to reschedule, with no promises that I have availability, at most 1 lesson per term. Please plan ahead as much as possible when you have a conflict.

If you wish to stop taking lessons I require 1 month prior notification. This is to allow time for adjusting my schedule, as well as for concluding our studies in an organized manner.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES:

The parent is to (help) provide an instrument in the best possible condition. If maintenance is required on the instrument, this should be done as soon as possible. While it is the students responsibility to practice regularly, I encourage parents to help by providing a distraction-free time and place for the daily practice, and by occasionally checking assignments and listening while your child plays for you. You can further help your child's musical development by attending concerts together regularly. (you are always welcome at my concerts ... I may be able to obtain comp tickets ... performance schedule online)

REQUIRED MATERIALS: (gerikfon.com/materials/)

- **Starter Kits** - available from Miller Marketing (GFRKit2 & GFRKit1; more info on New Student Page)
- Weissenborn Method for Bassoon (prefer New Weissenborn Method for Bassoon edited by Spaniol)
- Seat Strap • Swab • Reed Case (Mint-tin or similar at least!) • Reeds (also available from me)
- other etude books & music as necessary (New Weissenborn Method, Vol II, solos, etc.)
- Lesson Notebook • Tuner & Metronome (physical or apps)

STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

The student should arrive at each lesson on time, well prepared, and with all the necessary materials - music, etudes, reeds, reed tools (if required), etc. He/she must schedule, when at all possible, daily practice without distractions (20-45+ minutes daily).

Please feel free to call or EMail me with any questions regarding any aspect of your child's musical study. Please note that Email is my preferred method of communication. If these policies are respected things go smoother for everyone and learning the bassoon becomes as enjoyable as teaching it.

I also encourage my students to become members of the IDRS (International Double Reed Society). Further, I encourage attendance of music performances, and listening to recordings (especially bassoon) – listening to performers is a valuable part of music education.

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I have read and agree to the above policies:

Student: _____

Date: _____

Parent /Guardian: _____

Date: _____