



Piano Studio of Bomi Tunstall

819 Shadow Elm Drive, V
Charlotte, NC 28209
980-349-0160
bomitunstall@gmail.com
www.bomitunstall.com

Studio Policy 2020-2021

Welcome to the 2020-2021 academic year! Please carefully read the general lesson policy and guidelines in order for all parties to achieve a successful learning experience.

Enrollment & Attendance

- Registration entails an academic year, total 42 weeks from August to June.
- Lessons are in session except on the following days: Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Break, Christmas Break, MLK Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, and the month of July. These holidays and July are already excluded from the 42-week tuition and not charged; hence no make-up lessons are necessary.
- 42-week instruction consists of private sessions, repertoire classes, ensemble rehearsals and recitals. This format allows detailed study, confidence in presentation, and collaboration with others.
- Students may enroll at any time of the year. Tuition and fees will be prorated accordingly.
- Students who are 8 years old or above are required to take 45-minute lesson length in order to progress adequately for their developmental stage. Students with 45-min. lessons are eligible to enter state programs offered by MTNA; 60-min. lessons are required for the Royal Conservatory of Music certificate program.
- Up to 5 make-up lessons will be provided for *excused absences with 24-hour notice* for any reason (this is often used for an unexpected sickness or vacations) from August to June. July is off, except for make-up lessons. Make-up lessons cancelled by the student will not be rescheduled or refunded. The total number of make-up lessons is 5 per year and make-ups are offered at the teacher's earliest availability and/or the month of July.
- Zoom lessons are recommended for mild sick days, or make-up lessons.
- Make-up lessons are not offered for missed repertoire classes, rehearsals, recitals or private lessons other than the 5 excused absences.
- Students are welcome to swap lesson times with other students when needed and these arrangements are to be coordinated by the students themselves. Contact information will be provided on request. Please notify the teacher when the arrangement is made.

Recitals & Exams

- Students who have studied in our studio for at least 6 months have the option of performing in recitals. Otherwise, beginning students may choose to observe a recital before deciding to perform.
- Students who have studied for 1 year will have the option to enter state or national level assessments/exams upon the teacher's recommendation. With the studio's membership to several organizations and programs, students are eligible to participate in all programs associated with MTNA, NCMTA, RCM, and other external programs. This is optional and teacher recommendation is required.
- Decisions to participate in an RCM exam need to be made at least 6 months in advance for adequate preparation; 4 months in advance for MTNA programs.
- Students who are preparing for RCM (Royal Conservatory of Music) assessments are required to take weekly 60-minute lessons year-round. A minimum of 4 additional lessons are expected for the RCM exam or other higher-level auditions/competitions. These additional lessons are outside of the 42-week academic year and there will be a separate invoice for extra sessions as they occur.
- Students who are 4th grade and up are eligible to participate in chamber music and this is optional upon the teacher's recommendation. The setting is typically trio or quartet, with strings and woodwinds, and students will be working

with professional guest artists. Learning different aspects of ensemble skills and enjoyment collaborating with other instruments will be experienced. Fees for the artists and lesson times are separate.

Assignments & Daily Practice

- Students are required to commit to good quality home practice - consistently and daily.
- Minimum 15-30 minutes daily for beginners. 30-60 minutes for students enrolled in 45- & 60-minute lessons (varies depending on level). The teacher will determine an appropriate practice plan for each individual student.
- The best method for practicing is to split the practice session into small segments (e.g. 2 sessions of 15 min.). The quality (as opposed to quantity) of home practice is very important. Set a few specific goals for each practice session. Ex) work on precise rhythm and note reading for the first session; legato playing for the second.
- Students are highly recommended to practice on an acoustic piano. Beginning students may use a digital piano with weighted keys for the first year then move up to an acoustic piano.

Tuition & Fees

- Tuition is based on one academic year, 42 weeks in total, from August to June. July is either off for family vacations or used for unfulfilled make-up lessons. The tuition is divided into 9 equal monthly installments or 2 equal semester payments. Each lesson is numbered, and students will receive an attendance summary at the end of the academic year. The standard distribution of 42 weeks of instruction is as follows; 37 Private lessons, 4 repertoire classes and ensemble rehearsals, and 1 recital.
- Please be reminded that tuition pays for more than your weekly lesson. Some inclusions are lesson planning, purchasing books, researching and entering educational opportunities and creating worksheets and arranging for solo and ensemble pieces, etc.
- Yearly Registration fee is \$50 per student (non-refundable). This fee covers editing times for performances, equipment maintenance, preparing recitals and booking recital venues, group lesson scheduling and planning, and administrative duties.
- Books and learning material deposit of \$100 is required at the time of the registration for each academic year. Please see details under "Books & Entry Fees."
- Payments are accepted via Venmo and personal check.
- An invoice will be sent each month and the monthly installment must be cleared by the 1st of each month. For Venmo and personal checks, please send the payment 3-5 business days ahead of time so that the payment is cleared by the 1st. No lessons will be taught until tuition is paid and cleared.
- Costs for textbooks, entering exams/festivals/competitions, aural skills sessions, and chamber music participation are separate.
- The number of repertoire classes, ensemble rehearsals, and recitals may change.
- The studio reserves the right to dismiss a student for more than 3 late payments or a lack of progress.

Books & Entry Fees

- The yearly deposit of \$100 for books and learning materials is collected at the time of registration. The teacher will keep a record of the book orders. If there are any funds left at the end of the academic year, they will be refunded. If your order exceeds \$100, it will be invoiced. This depends on the student's advancement and level.
- Books and learning materials are ordered by the teacher and shipped to students directly from the online bookstores or publishers. This ensures the timely arrival for the lesson day and correct arrangement/edition/editor/publisher.
- All entry/registration fees to external programs (MTNA, RCM, etc.) are separate from the studio tuition and fees and it is the responsibility of students to register and pay all fees.

Communication

- Regular contact with parents is expected, especially regarding home practicing and informing of special circumstances. Parents are encouraged to stop by the studio periodically to check in on the student's general progress. Regular check-ins are best not only to prevent accumulating or neglected concerns, but to remain in good standing with practice, behavior, scheduling, or special instructions. Additionally, this often reminds children that their piano lessons are supported by their parents, and they will appreciate this attention.

- The best communication is expected to be made via phone, email and in person. Texting is for notifying any updates of attendance on the day of one's lesson only.

Discontinuation

- A *written* notice of discontinuation should be submitted one month prior in order to receive refunds. There are no refunds for less than one month written notice. Verbal notice or withdrawal from communication does not qualify for any refunds or credit. For less than 4 weeks of notice, the book deposit, nor entry fees for external events (if registered) will not be refunded.

Behavior in the Studio

- A respectful, loving, and positive attitude is a very important expectation of all parties: student, teacher, and parent. Individual lessons are not just about acquiring knowledge, but also building an excellent relationship, integrity, and commitment to each other. Careful treatment of our instruments and promptness in keeping lesson times are also considered part of this mutual respect.
- The studio reserves the right to dismiss a student for inappropriate behavior or lack of progress.

Agreement

- The studio policy is subject to change. By completing the registration, you indicate that you agree to the terms above and the usage of media containing student photos & performance videos.