

O'Connor Music Studio

<https://ocms.mymusicstaff.com/>

Welcome to the O'Connor Music Studio!

Teaching Piano in Fairfax, VA for over 30 years.

The initial interview is always free. This serves as a time to make sure the student is ready for lessons and that it's a good fit with the studio.

Transfer students, please bring your most recent method book(s) written work and notebook to the interview and first lesson.

Piano lessons are changing with the times! iPad, phone and computer apps are available now to help learn during the lesson and at home during daily practice. Online piano lessons are also an option.

Each lesson includes a review of music practiced at home, an overview of assignments for the following week, theory, and technique. Ear training and sight reading when time is available.

Prospective students must have a piano, organ or electric keyboard with 61-88 touch sensitive keys to use at home for daily practice.

Let's have another great year!

1

APPS

Piano lessons are changing with the times! iPad/Computer apps are available now

2

SICK?

24 hours notice are required to cancel a scheduled lesson. Saturday makeups.

3

CAN'T MAKE IT?

Request a live video during your lesson time, Zoom or prerecorded videos



My Music Staff

Please schedule lessons through the Calendar. Check for lesson notes. Log practice time daily.



Piano Maestro

Fun iPad app which listens to students play along with full backing tracks.



Remind App

Get texts and helpful info. Text @OCMS-Piano to the number 81010

Missed Lesson Options

Oh no! I have to miss lessons

Please use the My Music Staff Portal at <https://ocms.mymusicstaff.com> to cancel and schedule lessons. If you must cancel and do not have internet access, please call or text.

If you Cancel **More Than 24 Hours In Advance**: You may have a makeup lesson on the first Saturday of the next month or have a Zoom lesson. The O'Connor Music Studio is usually at full capacity so makeup lessons are not guaranteed. If a makeup time cannot be agreed upon, you will be credited for the missed lesson on the next month's invoice.

If you **Cancel Less Than 24 Hours In Advance**: You will be charged for the lesson. If the cancellation is the result of a sudden illness or family emergency, please let me know and arrangements can be made. Lack of practice is not an acceptable excuse to cancel a lesson.

Other Notes

Please do not send your child to the lesson sick. If he/she is not well enough to go to school, he/she is not well enough for piano lessons. Zoom lessons are possible during the regularly scheduled time or submit a video of your child's practice and I will make comments.

The teacher does not take full responsibility for improving student's ability. **Parents** need to supervise or to help make a conducive environment for their children's practice. Regardless of musical background, every parent can work with the teacher to make piano lessons a positive experience.

Here are some suggestions:

Getting your child to lessons on time with the proper materials is the first step to success. Expressing enthusiasm for your child's accomplishments provides strong incentive for him or her to continue making progress.

Reviewing the lesson with the child and being an audience at least once a week to show your continuing interest in the child's improvement and underscore the importance of consistent practice.

Supporting the program set forth by the teacher and cooperating in playing classes or recitals demonstrate your appreciation for music and musical training.

Establishing a definite schedule for practicing is essential to developing a commitment for lessons.

Unless practice time is given a high priority, it probably will not get done.

Tuition Payments for the month are due at or before the FIRST lesson of the month. Tuition reserves your exclusive lesson time and is non-refundable.

Tuition includes:

- **All Written and Lesson Books: Power Pages or Theory, Ear training** (if one is available for the student's method book), **NoteSpeller, Composition** after student has completed at least Book 1 of a method book series. *
- **Students in the Piano Pronto Series will have one book called Power Pages which encompasses the above 4 books (Theory, Ear Training, NoteSpeller, and Composition).**
- **Technology Subscriptions:**
 - **Piano Maestro for home use (IF you have an iPad at home). We may use it during lessons, as well.**
 - **Sproutbeat** music theory worksheets and short quizzes
- **A Student/Parent Portal at [MyMusicStaff](#).** (Ask me for your log-in password)
The Portal allows you to:
 - View your calendar of upcoming events, lessons, public events
 - Register for and cancel lessons
 - View student's attendance
 - View student's borrowed and downloaded library items
 - Track your student's practice time and leave notes or questions that they might have from the practice sessions
 - Add and track student repertoires
 - View email history
 - View OCMS contact information
 - Keep up-to-date with studio news
 - View the family's account and invoice information (only visible to parents/adult students)
 - Pay tuition online.
- **Loaner Books:** Method books, technic books, duets, sheet music, sight reading, holiday music and others as needed. These books are loaner books to be returned in good condition when no longer needed.
- **If these books are not returned in useable condition, the cost to replace them will be owed.** If you want one to keep, please let me know.

Where does your Tuition go?

- Time spent with the student
Lessons, performance classes, group lessons, recitals.
- Time spent in preparation for the student
Shopping for music, lesson planning, bookkeeping, development of curriculum, etc. It has been cited by professional music journals that for every hour enrolled in piano lessons, you are investing in at least 2 hours of the teachers time!
- Your teacher's training and experience
- Recital costs and preparations
Programs, refreshments, facility rental.
- Professional organization memberships.
Memberships are maintained by the teacher to enhance their teaching skills and provide the student with opportunities for festivals, competitions, and performance events.
- Professional journals.
Publications to assist the teacher in keeping current on new teaching materials and trends.
- Studio expenses: copying, computer software, incentive programs, instruments, tunings, repairs, website, blog, newsletters.
- Music books
Written / loaner music and materials purchased by the teacher to keep costs low for students.
- Property taxes, self-employment taxes, insurance, business licenses, retirement
- Continuing education
Lessons and classes that keep the teacher current on methods and techniques
- Book and music club memberships This enables many discounts to be passed to students.
- Subscriptions to Piano Maestro, Sproutbeat, iPad apps

Tuition **does not** include music books/supplies for festivals, audition, testing or competition fees. These require separate books for the adjudicator. Payments for these other student expenses are due with the next tuition payment.

*** Some books may not be included in the cost of online lessons due to distance from studio and shipping costs. These books will be billed to the student.**

- 20-minute lessons are \$20.00 and for very young children only
- 30-minute lessons are \$30.00 (Books listed above included for in-studio students)
- 45-minute lessons are \$44.00 (Books listed above included for in-studio students)
- 60-minute lessons are \$58.00 (Books listed above included for in-studio students)
- Group lessons - evaluation required. Cost depends on the number of students in the group.
- Keyboard rental - \$15 per week

NOTE: A late fee of \$25 is charged for payments received after the 10th. A \$35 service charge is applied to all accounts for checks returned for insufficient funds.

Miscellaneous

One month's notice is required for students discontinuing lessons for any reason. Once a student embarks on a school year of study, it is expected that they will complete it.

Parents are welcome during the lesson, but without other children if possible.

Please do not drop off your students early, or pick them up late. This is most annoying to the student who is taking a lesson. They have paid for a private lesson and do not usually relish having an audience. Extra students cannot be watched during another's lessons and they sometimes get disruptive. Having a parent come in during another student's lesson either to pick up or deliver is also disruptive. Continual disregard of this policy is grounds for dismissal.

Promptness for lessons is important.

Please do not knock unless the door is locked!

Questions? Please ask!

