

# *Studio Policies of Soria Phillips-Meadow*

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## *Teaching approach*

My teaching approach is shaped by the needs of each individual student and learning style combined with a strong foundation in healthy technique and engaged musicianship. My goal is to instill both a love of music in a supportive atmosphere and the inner discipline essential for music study and practice. My training and background are in classical music; however, I enjoy a wide variety of music and particularly finding repertoire that fits my students' interests to connect them closely with the piano.

I love working with students of all ages and have over 25 years of experience teaching very young children through grade school and high school as well as adults of all levels.

In addition to the recitals available to students of Harmony Roadhouse Music Studios, as a member of OMTA (Oregon Music Teachers Association), my students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of OMTA recitals throughout the school year. Participation in recitals is based on each family's interests and student's readiness. Sharing music with others can be a special experience if approached in a nurturing and gradual manner rather than as a requirement.

Students are also encouraged to attend concerts as well as listen to and watch recordings of classical and other genres of music.

## *Practice & Parental Support*

Effective piano lessons are a combined effort of the student, family, and piano teacher. ***For students to succeed, families must help children through age 12 in following the weekly practice assignments and beyond for students starting lessons after age 10.*** Once students have developed detailed practice habits, families may be able to shift from guiding and/or assisting to providing practice check-ins 2-3 times a week. This will vary for each student based on age, level, and learning style.

***With regular and focused practice,*** piano lessons are a meaningful and rewarding activity that provide lasting benefits both within and beyond music studies. Following the specific practice steps outlined in piano lessons rather than repeatedly playing through pieces is essential. This is key to cultivating steady progress which increases motivation.

Along with regular and detailed practice, the practice area should be well-lit and have minimal distractions. Listening closely while practicing is critical. Television and other devices should be eliminated during practice.

The piano bench should be adjusted to the proper height and a footstool in place while needed. Pianos need to be tuned and maintained at least once a year. Keeping fingernails trimmed is necessary in order for proper piano technique.

## *Attendance, Tuition, & Availability*

Consistent and timely attendance is required. Cancellations due to illness may be rescheduled if possible as make-up lessons. I offer this as incentive for families to cancel when sick. To keep everyone healthy as we share the piano, I prefer to schedule make-up lessons when possible rather than to have students arrive not feeling well even with last-minute notice.

Cancellations for reasons other than illness will not be rescheduled or refunded.

I will do my best to accommodate requests made well in advance to reschedule lessons for unexpected time conflicts when possible. I will also inevitably have my own unexpected time conflicts, primarily concert/rehearsal related, and appreciate your flexibility in advance.

Invoices are issued at the beginning of each month for that month with payment due by the first lesson of the month. For payment, please make checks payable to Soria Phillips-Meadow or pay via Venmo: [@Soria-Phillips-Meadow](https://www.venmo.com/@Soria-Phillips-Meadow)

To inquire about availability and teaching rates, please email or call me at: [soriapiano@gmail.com](mailto:soriapiano@gmail.com) / 541-206-7131. If leaving a voicemail, please leave your name, phone, and email address. After an initial email correspondence or phone conversation, a 30-minute in-person meeting may be scheduled to discuss potential lessons in more detail.

## *Teaching Calendar, Studio Hours, & Availability*

Lessons are taught on a weekly basis with most students receiving 45-minutes lessons. Very young beginners (ages 4-6) may start with 30-minutes lessons while advanced students and adults typically benefit from 1-hour lessons.

Piano lessons follow the 4J academic calendar from September through June. During summer term, lessons are scheduled month to month according to studio vacation schedules. Taking lessons over the summer even at a reduced schedule is essential to maintaining progress gained over the school year.

Ongoing feedback and dialogue are vital to successful lessons. Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the year.

By working together, we can share in the joy of music exploration and build a strong foundation for rewarding piano study.

I look forward to hearing from you!

