



*Jacqueline F. G. Barnes*

Piano Instructor

“Where love is deep, much can be accomplished.” –*Shinichi Suzuki*

### **Enrollment**

Enrollment will be considered after parent and student observation of lessons and conference with the parents (or yourself if you are an adult student). Enrollment is understood to apply for the entire studio year of August through May. We take various breaks throughout the year, based upon the school year calendar.

### **Registration**

Parents and students are asked to fill out and sign a registration form with student information when enrolling.

Enrollment is complete when the registration form is submitted and your check for the enrollment fee of \$125.00 has been paid. The enrollment fee reserves your student's place in the schedule for the year. The fee may be paid at my studio or mailed. Address given upon request.

The registration fee covers miscellaneous office time to work on scheduling, emails, copying and organizational time to submit proper paperwork for performance classes and photocopying, folders, handouts, incentives, the trophy each student may earn, continuing education, borrowing of all materials from my music library, planning time outside of the contact time with the student, and more.

### **Tuition and Billing**

Tuition is billed per studio year and divided equally into monthly tuition installments.

In addition to tuition, statements also include the cost of fees for masterclasses, piano festivals and other sponsored events, which are separate and are not covered in the Registration Fee or Tuition.

Payment is due by the first scheduled lesson of each month, August through May.

Students age 10 or in 5th grade and above are advised to choose either 45 minute lessons. Students age 5-9 may choose to start with 30 minute lessons.

A late payment penalty of \$25 per student will be assessed for payments made late, after the day of the first scheduled lesson of each month.

Please note you may need to mail your payment on occasion to avoid the late payment penalty. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

Tuition Installments for August 2024 - May 2025:

30 minute lessons 10 monthly payments of \$145, (Ages 5-9, beginners)

45 minute lessons 10 monthly payments of \$190, (Ages 10+)

What Does Tuition Cover?

Teacher Experience

Teacher Formal Education

Time spent with student

Time spent planning for student lessons

Trips to piano store

Sales, Property and other taxes

High quality Instruments

Up keep of instruments

Theory Games - hand crafted or paid computer sites

Planning recitals and student graduation parties

Administrative time for scheduling, answering emails

Time spent keeping accounts up-to-date

Teacher continuing education

Teacher salary

Teacher retirement

Office Supplies

### **Calendar**

By submitting the enrollment form, a student/parent is contracting with Jacqueline Barnes for a full year of lessons and tuition payments (August through May). The yearly calendar includes weekly private lessons for a total of 46 total lesson weeks. Students also have performance classes, field trips, masterclasses, and piano auditions throughout the year. The following activities are posted on the "Calendar of Events" webpage within the studio website.

### **Media Policy**

During student and group gatherings, recitals and other performances the teacher reserves the right to use video recording or to take photographs of students for use in the studio scrapbook, advertising materials, lesson demonstration, YouTube and/or Vimeo, and studio owned websites. Photos taken by the teacher OR that are shared with the teacher by other parents or students of gatherings or performances become the property of the studio and can be used at the discretion of the teacher in regards to the studio. The studio follows online safety rules in this matter.

### **Summer Study**

The studio calendar includes 46 lesson weeks from August through May. Students are advised to take lessons during the summer to retain concepts learned during the school year, and to avoid spending the fall months reviewing and getting back into shape.

I provide a schedule of available teaching weeks for the months of June & July. Lessons need not occur in consecutive weeks to allow for vacations, camps, etc., and the schedule is very flexible to meet your needs. Summer lessons will be taught via Zoom. Students will have the

opportunity to take more than the required summer lessons if desired.

### **Music and Materials**

I am happy to generously lend music and informative books from my library, and various theory related games to all students.

The cost for borrowing music books and theory games is covered by the registration fee.

### **Absences and Illness**

Tuition is based on enrollment, not attendance, and **lessons you choose to miss or cancel will not be made up.**

The studio is a full-time career and no makeup lessons are available.

When mutually convenient, occasional exchanges of lesson times may be arranged with enough notice (the week before), using a Suzuki Families Directory to be placed in every student's notebook. I will assume a student is having their regular lesson unless I hear otherwise.

If school is cancelled, lessons may be scheduled for earlier in the day when possible.

Though my studio is predominantly online, sometimes parents schedule in-person lessons if the student needs special help with an assignment, an upcoming audition, a piano concert, or competition. If your child is sick enough to stay home from school, he/she will not benefit from a lesson in a constructive way. Please do not send him/her for a piano lesson. My students are familiar with Zoom and may have their lesson online at their regular time.

### **Discontinuing Lessons**

Every student stops taking lessons at some point. Please make this decision thoughtfully with plenty of discussion between the teacher, parent, and student so that lessons can cease with a positive sense of closure.

For this reason, one month's (paid tuition) notice is required in writing prior to discontinuing lessons.

Note: At the discretion of the teacher, students may be asked to discontinue lessons at any time if they have unpaid tuition, an excess amount of absences/unprepared lessons, or if they show a lack of interest or refusal to cooperate during lessons.

Your commitment when enrolled is for an entire year, August 2023 through May 2024. Students are expected to take ALL of the lessons for the year in which they are enrolled, and payment for all 12 months of the studio year is required.

With the Suzuki method, parents attend and are involved in lessons. The function of the parent in the lesson is to observe and take notes of the teacher's practice suggestions to the student, and to be supportive coaches at home.

### **Your Home Piano**

A well maintained acoustic piano at home is essential for success.

Electronic pianos and keyboards are fun and have their place, but they do not respond the same way to the musical and technical demands of my studio and will hamper the student's progress. I am happy to work with families in purchasing a good piano at a price they can afford.

Students deserve a good piano on which to practice. The vibrations that go through your body from the strings on an acoustic piano is therapeutic.

You can't get the same tonal shading on an electronic instrument even if the keys are weighted. The vibrations that come through an acoustic instrument as you play heighten your enjoyment in playing.

### **Practice Guidelines**

Students are expected to be prepared for each week's lesson.

A regular time should be set aside each day for practice in order to establish a routine that will become a daily habit. Daily practice is important for reinforcement of concepts and to avoid cramming just before the lesson, which is never successful.

Six undisturbed practice sessions per week are recommended. Daily length of practice should be the same length as your weekly lesson times 5 or 6 days.

It is imperative for students to practice for results as well as minutes. Lessons are designed to achieve goals each week through regular practice. You get out of it what you put into it.

Remember This:

Unprepared lessons cost the same as prepared ones, but their value is substantially compromised.

Important note: Sometime during the course of taking piano lessons, your child may say

something like, "I don't want to practice," or "I'm too tired to go to piano lessons," or "I don't want to go- I want to play with my friends," "I want to quit," etc... Just be aware that your child's interest will probably not be consistent; but to be successful, you will need to be consistent in your encouragement and commitment to music instruction. In most cases, simply acknowledge your child's comments, but then go on with your normal routine just as you would if you heard the comment, "I don't want to brush my teeth," "I don't want to stop playing with my toys," or "I don't want to go to bed."

### **Questions**

I am always happy to talk to my students and their parents. Please feel free to contact me about anything regarding piano lessons.

Feel free to leave a message at 706-504-8288 or e-mail me at [JacquelineFBarnes@gmail.com](mailto:JacquelineFBarnes@gmail.com). I will get back to you as soon as possible.

PLEASE NOTE....by submitting your enrollment form, and your participation in the program offered at my piano studio, you are contracting with Jacqueline F.G. Barnes, under all terms listed in the policy above.



Jacqueline F. G. Barnes

<http://JacquelineBarnes.com/>