

SYKES PIANO STUDIO

204 Central Avenue
Osseo, MN 55369

www.Facebook.com/SykesPianoStudio

POLICIES

for Regular and Flex Students

cheri@cherisykes.com
www.cherisykes.com
651-335-0048



For Regular Weekly Students: Standard yearly tuition for forty 30-minute lessons is \$1200 (\$30 each), evenly divided into eleven monthly payments of \$109. Standard yearly tuition for forty 45-minute lessons is \$1800 (\$45 each), divided into monthly payments of \$164.

Our studio operates on an 11-month tuition calendar year from September through July, containing 40 lessons, 32 of them September-May (including four studio classes), and the equivalent of 8 lessons from late May-August. (Please see the calendar in your online Student Portal.) **All Regular Weekly Students are contracted to complete the 40-lesson calendar year.** *Summer lessons are an opportunity to cover educational areas, such as theory and improvisation, with greater intent than during the academic year. They also prevent a loss of valuable momentum.*

Summer tuition does not vary from the September-May rates. Summer tuition payments will be due June 1 and July 1. No tuition is due in August. The eight required summer lessons can be flexibly scheduled according to your calendar as well as instructor's. Lessons can be compressed into fewer but longer sessions.

Four **Group Studio Lessons** are offered during the year in lieu of the week's private lesson, as an essential element to musical growth. All regular students are required to attend (please see Studio Calendar in your online Student Portal). Groups offer informal solo and ensemble performance opportunities, the inspiration and fun of peer-learning, and the opportunity to gain skills and knowledge better taught in groups, such as music history, improvisation, and theory.

The calendar also features a December recital as well as the Annual Spring Recital.

You have the option to take **more** than the calendared 40 weeks of lessons, at additional charge.

Duo Lessons are effective and fun, particularly at earlier stages of learning. Duo lessons are dependent on the availability of a suitable lesson partner. Tuition is \$82/month per student per 30-minute lesson and \$123 per student for 45-minute duo lesson.

New students may enroll at any point in the calendar year. This contract allows for an introductory **four-week trial period**, at the end of which you are under no obligation should you choose to discontinue.

Adult Flex Lessons: Those age 18+ are eligible for a flexible lesson schedule. The student and instructor decide frequency and length of lessons. Students pay at month's beginning for the number

of lessons anticipated that month. Tuition is due on the 1st of the month; late fees are applied after the 5th day of the month. Rates are: \$33/30-minute lesson; \$49.50/45-minute lesson; \$66/60-minute lesson. You assume no 11-month contract; no month's notice is required to terminate. However, 24-hours notice is required to reschedule a lesson. All scheduling and payment can be handled through your personal web portal.

All Students: Tuition is due on the first day of the month. Tuition will be subject to a \$15 late fee if paid after the 5th day of the month. Via your personal Studio Web Portal, Credit cards and Automatic monthly withdrawal payments are accepted. Checks, cards, and cash can be accepted in person, mailed or hand deposited in my mail box at rear of NOLA building. **Mail to: Cheri Sykes, 204 Central Avenue, Osseo, MN 55369.**

An annual \$20 registration fee for each regular or flex student is due at first lesson of calendar year. This covers all expenses for studio classes and our two yearly recitals, including refreshments, prizes, ribbons, and space rental. It also covers online subscriptions utilized by students in the studio and at home.

Facebook: Follow Sykes Piano Studio on Facebook (www.Facebook.com/SykesPianoStudio) for a chronicle of student accomplishments! Enjoy student pictures/videos also on www.CheriSykes.com.

Absences: Log in to your Student Portal and indicate your absence. Choose an alternate lesson date. **24 hours advance notice** is necessary to accommodate any scheduling change. Makeups for last-minute family emergencies will be negotiated case-by-case.

Leave of Absences: Monthly tuition will remain due if extended absences are taken during the eleven-month calendar year for regular (non-flex) students.

Instructor Cancellations: Your instructor is an active performer, which unavoidably brings occasional scheduling conflicts. A makeup will be offered at a mutually convenient time.

Discontinuing Lessons: Every student stops taking lesson at some point. Ideally, this decision is made thoughtfully with plenty of discussion between the teacher, parent, and student so that lessons can cease with a positive sense of closure. **For Regular Weekly Students, required is one month's notice 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. **Enrollment is understood to be for an entire tuition year, September 2018 through July 2019.** Students are expected to take ALL of the lessons for the year in which they are enrolled. If circumstances require that you **discontinue lessons before the end of July, the one-month Early Withdrawal Fee will be paid equaling one month's tuition.** You will have the option to take lessons during this one month, or simply pay the month's tuition.

Please expect that a 45-minute private lesson will generally be appropriate for your child as s/he progresses past the first year of lessons.

Please expect that tuition rates and studio policies will bear adjustments from year to year.

Thank you for entrusting your musical education to Sykes Piano Studio!

INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS:

- BA, Piano, UW-Eau Claire; Masters in Sacred Music (Organ), Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- Fifteen-plus years experience as private instructor
- Master Certified, MN Music Teachers Association (MMTA). Member of ground-breaking Popular Styles Syllabus Committee.
- Member: Music Teachers National Association (MTNA); West Suburban Music Teachers Association
- Active solo performer and bandleader. **Expert in popular styles.**

YOUR TUITION PAYS FOR:

- Your lesson time with instructor
 - Time planning each student's curriculum path on an individual basis, including researching repertoire and pedagogical materials. **Lessons are carefully customized to each individual!**
 - Custom-made learning pieces geared to the students level and interests, notated on software or recorded
 - Instructor's ongoing learning of evolving studio technology and trouble-shooting
 - Production time of recitals
 - Time/money spent attending MMTA meetings, online workshops, conventions, other continuing education.
- Your instructor is dedicated to remaining current with latest research-based, innovative pedagogical approaches and exciting technology, and passionate about enriching her ability to provide you the highest quality of instruction!**
- Instructor's membership dues in professional organizations
 - Studio administrative costs: rent, liability insurance, musical instruments upkeep, computer/printer maintenance, software purchases, time on student scheduling, correspondence, bookkeeping, studio office supplies
 - Instructor's salary, insurance, retirement