

August 12, 2023

Dear Students and Parents,

I hope you have all enjoyed a fun and restful summer, and are ready to begin a productive school year of music!

Enclosed you will find:

1. 2023-2024 Studio Policy
2. 2023-2024 Swap List
Phone numbers and e-mail addresses are included. Parent contact information is listed. Please check for errors.
3. Student Registration Form
(I require up-to-date information each year. Please print, fill in, scan, and return prior to lessons beginning)
4. Performance Masterclass Assignments and Schedule

Dates:

2023-2024 school-year lessons will begin on **Monday, August 28**. Please note that lessons do not completely conform with school holiday schedules. I will be teaching on some teacher workdays and Monday holidays. *Please closely attend to the dates listed under the heading “Calendar” on the attached Studio Policy document.* Students will have weekly lessons on a regular basis, but there will also be a number of “No Lesson” days. The last lesson date for the school year will be **May 9**.

2023-2024 Tuition

The per-lesson school-year fee will remain at \$90.00. There will be **31 lessons** for the 2023-2024 school year (\$2,790). Added to the lesson tuition will be a \$25 fee for each of 9 performance masterclasses (\$225). The total tuition amount (\$3,015) is pro-rated into **nine equal monthly payments**. The **monthly tuition fee for this school year is \$335**. For families with two or more students, or students who take 2 or more lessons per week, the monthly tuition is discounted (see Studio Policy document). *No matter how many lessons there are in a month, payments will be the same, and will be due the first lesson of each month, September through May.* Tuition can be paid by check, PayPal, or Venmo.

For each student, \$17 per lesson, plus the \$25 monthly performance masterclass fee, will be put into a studio fee savings account. Payments for piano accompaniment (for all events), festival and competition registration fees, music association recital fees, and recital space rental fees will be drawn from this account. *With one exception* (VBODA Solo & Ensemble Festival registration fee), students will not be charged any additional fees for these services (*registration and payment for Solo & Ensemble Festival is made through your school music teacher*).

Developing Performance Skills

Performance is a skill that is difficult to learn. Nerves play a big part in every performance. It is difficult to practice for performances, auditions, and school performance exams since nerves kick in at the time of the performance. *Student musicians need to perform as often as possible* to learn about themselves, and how to work with their individual flow of adrenaline. **In September, I will give each student a copy of the 2023-2024 Studio Calendar indicating the performances for which I believe that student should participate.** Some students will perform more than others. If you believe that your schedule is too rigorous, or if you feel you’d like to do more, please feel free to discuss this with me at any time. Dates are subject to change, but please reserve your personal dates until/unless otherwise informed.

Performance Attendance Requirement

Please remember that the Fall Studio requirements include *attendance at a minimum of three professional concerts* each school year. These concerts must include professional players of violin and/or viola. Attending performances gives us ideas, and allows us to see superior role models performing our instruments. There are *many* wonderful concerts available locally, and many are free or discounted for students! I will bring performances of special interest to your attention.

Instrument Maintenance:

Before school begins, please make sure your instrument is in good condition, replacing strings and rehairing your bow, if needed.

As hard as it is to believe, cold weather *is* just around the corner. Please remember to use your DAMP-IT, or in-case humidifier, **as soon as the heat comes on in your home**. Throughout the cooler months, while the heat is on, you must **water your DAMP-IT or check your humidifier daily**. Make it a part of your routine. So many of you now own fine instruments; *there is no excuse for neglecting this important task!*

Questions? Check the Studio Website!

Please remember to check the studio website from time to time: www.helenfall.com. Reminders of upcoming performance classes and recitals, interesting articles on music and musicians, and photos of student performances are posted there. Parents, please explore the *Parents* section on the *Studio Resources* page. Students, please explore the *Students* section on the *Studio Resources* page. Monthly newsletters are also posted there. From the home page, click on “More,” then “Newsletters.”

The Fall Studio requirements are rigorous. *Please review the enclosed Studio Policy thoroughly*. If you feel you are unable to fulfill the requirements, please let me know, and I will gladly work with you to find another teacher who would better fit your needs.

If you have any questions or concerns about studio issues, please feel free to contact me at (703)772-5212 or helenfallstudio@gmail.com. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

Helen Fall