

Piano Studio of James Loughery — Cincinnati Music Academy

2021 Studio Policies

“I don’t like to practice, never have. But when I do get started at the piano, for the first 10 minutes I play scales, slowly. I’ve done this all my life. Listen to the sounds you make. The sound of each tone will generate a response in you. It will give you energy.”

Van Cliburn

Hello and a warm welcome to my studio! It is a joy to be with you on the path of musical discovery for you and your family. For lessons to be as valuable as possible to every student, the rules, guidelines, and advice contained in this policy aim to offer you the highest quality and experience of being a part of my studio.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition

- 30-minute lessons: \$120/month
- 45-minute lessons: \$175/month
- 60-minute lessons: \$230/month
- Individual lessons/consultations: \$60/hour

Included in annual tuition:

- 44 private lessons
- 2 studio recitals

Monthly tuition is determined by the annual cost of all events divided into equal monthly payments. There are 46 events scheduled for the year, including 44 private lessons and 2 studio recitals. Annual tuition is based on the cost for only 44 events, meaning there are 2 absences built into tuition that may not be rescheduled (“flex weeks”).

Summer lessons are included in yearly calendar, and all students are expected to continue lessons through the summer.

Tuition is due by the 1st day of every month, and invoices will be sent out the last week of each month via email. Mailed invoices are available upon request. If applicable, any fees accrued for materials or event registrations will be included. Payments received after the 5th of the month are subject to a \$25 late fee, and a \$35 fee is subjected to returned checks. I accept the following payment options:

- Personal check payable to James Loughery (mailed to 1600 Thompson Heights Ave., apt. 203, Cincinnati, OH 45223)
- Automatic monthly bank draft payable to James Loughery
- Zelle transfers
- PayPal transfers
- Credit card

Registration

CMA annual registration fee is due by September 1st of each calendar year, and is priced as follows:

- 1 student: \$30

- 2 students: \$50
- 3 or more students from same family: \$70

This fee may be completed online at cincinnati.musicacademy.com or by mail using a registration form, payable to CMA.

Holidays

There will be no lessons that fall on the following major holidays. These “off” days were factored into the overall calendar and tuition remains the same.

- Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day
- Independence Day
- Thanksgiving

Make-up Lessons, Refunds, and Reschedules
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The studio does not provide refunds for lessons or events missed by a student, or for events cancelled due to Covid-19. With no less than 24 hours notice, make-up lessons may be approved if the conflict is beyond the student’s control, and space and time are available. In rescheduling, I will aim to find the most mutually convenient time, but ultimately this is at the studio’s discretion.

Teacher Absence

In the rare occasion I must cancel a lesson due to illness or emergency, I will attempt to reschedule at a mutually convenient time. No refunds or credits will be given for lessons unable to be rescheduled.

Inclement Weather

Lessons will be converted to online by teacher or student if inclement weather makes travel to the studio inordinately difficult or otherwise troublesome.

Materials / Student Expectations

Materials for Lessons

- Books are purchased by parent/student as recommended
- Medium-sized 3-ring binder with pockets
 - Because I use a diverse collection of resources, I regularly give students handouts and send PDF documents of sheet music via email—I expect students to place all materials in a 3-ring binder.
 - I frequently send PDF attachments via email and expect students to print. if you cannot accommodate printing, please inform me.

Student Expectations/Parental Participation

- Each week, I email notes to students/parents including summaries, tips, and goals based on that week’s lesson. It is important to acknowledge these notes and use them to your benefit, by either reviewing via phone/computer or printing and placing at the front of your binder.
- If you wish for notes to be kept in a physical journal each week, please request.
- Students are expected to arrive prepared with all musical materials
- Listen to music frequently and liberally, especially piano-based or piano-featured music. This is a significant source of inspiration and motivation and will help you develop a deeper

relationship with music through the piano. Listening recommendations will be frequently given.

Practicing

While practice does not seem *fun*, it does not have to be a tedious routine. With consistent work habits, practicing can be a stimulating and rewarding endeavor, not in the least by the feeling of accomplishment and the satisfaction of overcoming difficulties. From the beginning, one main purpose of practice is to make the mechanical details gradually more automatic, not requiring special attention, so that the mind is freed more and more to concentrate on more musical nuances. The following are general practicing suggestions for all levels:

- Establish a definite practice period for each day and try to adhere to it. This should not interfere with other duties and priorities nor impose on diversionary activities.
- Practice in a physically pleasant surrounding (well-lit room, fresh air, comfortable temperature)
- Do not practice when fatigued, upset, or preoccupied with other problems and duties. Practice requires alertness and the ability to shut out distractions (radio, television, etc.)
- Have a plan—know in advance what you will work on and what you are aiming for
- Divide the music into *practice units* and work on them in succession. *Practice units* can be as short as a motive, phrase, or passage, or as long as a small section of the piece. The general guiding factors are determined by elements of form and *not* the barlines. Repeat practice units until goal is attained, but not to the point of boredom, staleness, or fatigue.
- Special attention should be paid to *connecting* these practice units. Once a unit is mastered, it should be repeated together with the preceding section(s).
- Practice one hand at a time at first and begin two-handed play when each hand's part is fluent.
- Practice a piece more slowly at first than the prescribed fast tempo. This enables us to survey the music at a comfortable pace, grasp the details, pay more attention to correct fingering, accuracy, proper articulation, and touch.
- Establish correct fingering immediately upon reviewing piece—improvised fingering or poor fingering can only lead to wasted time and disappointment. If numbers are not marked in a score, fingering should be written in with pencil.
- Ideally, the best test for a finished assignment is to be able to play it three times without mistakes.

Miscellaneous / Contact

Dismissal/Withdrawal

Students may be dismissed from any lesson should they engage in unruly or aggressive behavior, habitually fail to attend, or if tuition and fees are habitually tardy.

Cancelation of Lessons

Students/parents should notify instructor 30 days in advance to terminate lessons, at which time the final month's tuition, along with any other unpaid fees, will be due. Without a 30-day notice, students/parents will be responsible for the upcoming month's tuition.

Contact

Email: jameswloughery@gmail.com

Phone: 317-793-5538 (voicemail or text)

Home mailing address: James Loughery

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