

Private Lessons Syllabus – Middle School Students

Primary Learning Objectives and Studio Notes

I. SCALE STUDIES

Major Scales: Study and/or review of all 12 major scales. This aspect of lessons will enable the student to perform each of the 12 major scales and be able to identify all of the 12 major scales by individual key signatures in any given selection of music. This area of study will be supplemented by musical etudes of classical and contemporary musical styles and is designed to reinforce this learning objective through application via an actual selection of music.

Desired Learning Outcome: Student will demonstrate the ability to perform all 12 major scales without error. Student will be able to perform at least one etude selection on a level suitable for recital or concert in public. Success in this area will depend upon how much practice time the individual student applies to lesson assignments and how many lesson appointments that the student actually attends.

Required Materials: Rubank Intermediate Book

II. MUSICAL LITERATURE AND REPERTOIRE

a. Solo Literature and Ensemble Music: Study and/or continue the study of an already selected published solo or ensemble selection. This aspect of lessons will develop the student in the area of performing music written specifically for their particular musical instrument. This area of study will also enable the student preparatory coaching for participation in solo and ensemble festivals through their school music program and is designed to reinforce this learning objective through application and musical form analysis of an actual selection of music.

Desired Learning Outcome: Student will be able to perform at least one published solo or a respective part to an ensemble selection on a level suitable for recital or concert in public. Success in this area will depend upon how much practice time the individual student applies to lesson assignments and how many lesson appointments that the student actually attends.

b. School Band Music: Study and/or review of music that has been selected for study by the school music program director where the student attends. This aspect of lessons will enable the student to successfully perform an assigned individual musical part in the context as a performing member of a larger ensemble. This area of study will be supplemented by rhythm studies, form analysis, memorization techniques, and applicable individual musical phrase isolation technical study.

Desired Learning Outcome: Student will demonstrate the ability to perform the respective selections of music without error and preferably without the use of music if memorization is required for performance. Student will be able to perform at a level suitable for recital or concert in public. Success in this area will depend upon how much practice time the individual student applies to lesson assignments and how many lesson appointments that the student actually attends.

Required Materials: Individual Parts to School Band Music

III. STUDIO NOTES

a. Musical Instrument: It is required that all students in my studio have a suitable and working musical instrument for participation in lessons. The instrument must be in both good repair and working order. Have all repairs and maintenance done prior to your lesson appointment. I also encourage Middle School students to consider upgrading their instrument above the beginning band instrument product to what is termed "step-up". Step-up instruments are constructed to facilitate the performance of the more technically advanced intermediate literature required of a student at this level of study.

b. Musical Accessories: It is required that all students have necessary accessories for participation in lessons. Ensure that if your instrument requires reeds that you purchase them prior to your lesson

appointment. Ensure that you have maintenance supplies such as: a swab to dry the interior of your instrument after performance; cork grease or slide grease (for flutes); and a soft cloth to wipe off acidic residual from the keys of your instrument after performance. Mouthpieces are important at this level of study. Therefore, I also will encourage that my middle school-level clarinet students obtain a mouthpiece equivalent to a Vandoren B45 and my middle school-level saxophone students obtain a mouthpiece equivalent to a Selmer C*.

c. Personal Notebook Binder: It is required that all students have a 3-ring binder with document protectors for study in my studio. This binder does not have to be new and should contain document protectors to hold handout study materials that I use to supplement the published musical materials we use in lessons.

d. Blank Manuscript Pad: It is required that students obtain a blank music writing manuscript pad for use in lessons. This is used to document individual examples for each student during study by me, as well as, for the student to use during analysis of the material we study in lessons.

e. Bring All Materials To Each Lesson: It is required that all students bring all assigned materials to include instrument, books, etc. for study in my studio. It is understood that we all forget things sometimes, because we are all human. However it is literally impossible to conduct a private music teaching session that is designed for the individual if the study materials are not present. Not bringing your materials results in a very ineffective use of your paid fee for the use of my time for instructional service as a private teacher. The quality of instruction I offer is therefore diminished.

f. Philosophy and Guarantee: It has been proven over 20+ years of teaching privately that those students who apply themselves to study in my studio achieve success in their musical studies. If you put the practice time in, you will improve and grow as a musician. If you do not practice consistently at home, you will not improve and grow as a musician. My teaching style and philosophy requires a relaxed atmosphere due to the inherently intense nature of the material studied. Therefore, I will not beg you to practice, nor will I hound you about it. It is your choice. If at anytime my studio is not practical for you, please request another instructor who may best suit your needs. So, as you see my motivation is not money. The most important thing in my opinion is that you stay in music and enjoy music as the enrichment to your life that it is.

A note about Gifted Students

I have found that some students at the Middle School-level are naturally gifted musicians. When such students are identified during the course of study, I generally supplement this syllabus with high school-level material for them. This is done on a case-by-case basis and not a goal to aspire to if you are not one given such advanced studies. Some gifted students do not show their gift for music immediately, while others do from the very start of beginning lessons. Where your talent or gift fits into this paradigm is fine. Music is individual and objective in this respect. We all learn and assimilate information in our own individual ways. The important thing is to learn the lessons we develop for you individually and you will succeed.

