

Private Lessons Syllabus – Beginning Students

Primary Learning Objectives and Studio Notes

I. SCALE STUDIES

Chromatic Scale: Study and/or review of all note fingerings of the practical range for their instrument. This is known in musical terminology as the Chromatic Scale. This aspect of lessons will enable the student to perform each of note fingerings of the practical range for their instrument and be able to identify all note fingerings of the practical range for their instrument individually as written in music and by which fingering is used to produce the notes on their instrument. 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 note fingerings of the practical range for their instrument 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: Essential Elements Book 1 and Book 2

II. MUSICAL LITERATURE AND REPERTOIRE

a. Solo Literature and School Band 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 concerts given 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 on a beginning level.

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.

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.

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 encourage that my middle school-level clarinet students eventually have a mouthpiece equivalent to a Vandoren B45 and my middle school-level saxophone students eventually have 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 Beginning Students

I have found that some students at the Beginning-level are some of the best musicians to benefit from private study. Beginning students are playing an instrument because they want to and are very interested in learning to make music. I encourage parents to attend all lessons with beginning students whenever possible. This reinforces all of the new material we learn each week because the parent is there to help the student recall a particular aspect of study that was discussed during the lesson. I require that the student practice at least 10-15 minutes each day, in addition to whatever performance practice was done at school. During this practice time at home the student should practice both the lesson assignment and what was covered to study in school. BE PATIENT WITH YOURSELF AND YOUR BEGINNING STUDENT.

