

# RESONATE STUDIO INFORMATION

## OBJECTIVES

- To provide individualized instruction on how to better understand and play the cello
- To provide efficient practicing methods to teach students how to teach themselves and enable them to continue to learn, grow, and progress as cellists outside of professional instruction.
- To provide opportunities and knowledge to help students cultivate a passion and appreciation for music and the cello.

Although the main objective is to learn how to play the cello, I make every effort to create well-rounded musicians.

Lessons will include elements from the following:

- Cello Playing
- Cello Technique and Musicality
- Music Theory
- Music History
- Composition
- Improvisation
- Basic Instrument Care

If there are other topics you wish to cover within lessons, or to have extra lessons to delve deeper into a certain subject, please contact me to discuss it further.

## EXPECTATIONS

To be a successful musician, it is very important to practice every day. Practicing every day, even if for just a short time, is more effective than to practice only a few times a week for extended periods of time. Effective practice methods include: practicing material in the same order every day, practicing SLOWLY at first to better your understanding of the material and then building speed once it has been mastered at a slower speed, to stop and use deductive reasoning to solve problems that may arise, and to closely follow instructions on how to practice effectively and efficiently to avoid developing bad habits.

Students can not have long or false fingernails while playing the cello. It creates bad habits in playing and can be damaging to the instrument itself. Fingernails need to be clean and cut short at all times.

Students who do not bring required material to each lesson (music, practice tracking, bow, etc.) have the possibility of being turned away from a lesson with no refund.

### PRACTICE:

Practicing every day is highly encouraged and extremely beneficial in developing the skills needed to be a cellist. I require students to practice **at least** five times a week. This will be monitored through provided practice charts which will be signed by the student every week before lessons. I also require a parent's signature on weekly practice charts if the student is under the age 18. In this practice chart, students will record what they practiced and how long they practiced each day. This chart will be checked at the beginning of every lesson and, depending on what has been practiced, will determine what will be covered in lessons that week. It is very important to always bring an up-to-date, signed practice chart to lessons. These practice charts can be found on my website (listed below).

musicresonates.com.

I highly encourage all of my students to take advantage of the provided material as regularly as possible to help them learn cello quickly and successfully. If it is preferred to not work with practice charts, students are then required to provide a personal notebook solely dedicated to cello lessons and practice tracking that should be brought to lessons weekly.

Practicing should follow the same pattern daily:

- o Scales
- o Etudes
- o Solo repertoire

As a student advances as a cellist, more practice is required.

Below is my standard expectation for individual practice time.

- Beginner level cello students should practice at least a half hour to an hour every day.
- Intermediate cello students should practice at least an hour to an hour and a half every day
- Advanced cello students should practice at least two to three hours every day.

Practice marks progress - only you can set your standard for success.

MATERIALS:

Students should have access to an instrument that they can practice on daily. Other materials required to be successful are rosin for the bow, a rag to wipe the cellos strings and body off after each practice session, a music stand, and a metronome to

assist in effective practice, if possible, it is best to practice on a chair that sits parallel to the ground and that will create a 90 degree angle on the inside of your knee. A chair that is too high or too low can create bad posture while playing.

### Materials to be brought to lessons WEEKLY:

- Instrument
- Bow
- Rosin
- Music
- Weekly practice chart or student provided notebook of any kind.

### POLICIES:

**PAYMENT:** Payment is due at the **beginning** of each month for the **entire** month. This has been a problem in the past and now has to be policy. If you have not paid for the month by the time of your first lesson of the month, you will be turned away. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

If lessons are canceled less than 24 hours prior to your scheduled lesson time, it will count as a lesson and you will not be refunded the amount paid for a single lesson. If a lesson is canceled more than 24 hours prior to the scheduled lesson time, I am willing to be flexible and will attempt to reschedule that lesson for a different time during the week or that week's credit will be applied to the next month. If, for whatever reason, I cancel lessons, you are guaranteed credit towards another lesson either later in the week, if possible, or the amount will be moved to the following month. Students are not allowed to adjust the amount to be paid at the top of the month without explanation beforehand. Partial payments with no explanation will flag your student account as delinquent and may lead to expulsion from my studio after more than one flag.

I try to be as available as possible to all of my students. If during your weekly practice you stumble upon something that confuses

you, or that you are struggling with, please contact me so that I may help you as soon as possible so that you can continue practicing. If you choose not to contact me throughout the week, please skip the confusing parts and move on. To come to your next lesson unprepared because one part confused you early on is **NOT** an excuse for coming to a lesson unprepared. Attending a lesson unprepared could warrant a short or entirely canceled lesson with no refund. **By agreeing to my studio policies, you are agreeing to the necessary personal practice required to attend lessons each week.**

### Cello Lesson Rates:

- Beginner half hour cello lessons: \$30.00
- Intermediate forty-five minute cello lessons: \$45.00
- Advanced one hour cello lessons: \$60.00

I accept cash and Venmo (@Ciera-Rasmussen). Checks are accepted, but not preferred.

**LATE/NO-SHOWS:** If a student fails to show up for a scheduled lesson the lesson will be charged in full with no refund. No exceptions outside of significant emergencies.

A student is considered a no-show after 15 minutes and forfeits the remaining lesson. \*30 minute lesson students are considered no shows after 10 minutes. If you are running late, but still plan to attend your lesson, please communicate this with me so that I may hold your time.

If a student is late, but still decides to attend, the predetermined lesson length and time slot will **NOT** be altered. For example, a student attending a 30 minute lesson that shows up 10 minutes late (with notice) will only have 20 minutes remaining for their lesson with no opportunity to make up for lost time.

**EXPULSION:** I reserve the right to expel a student for any reason (Examples of things that will get a student expelled: being aggressive, rude, non-communicative, exhibiting toxic behavior,

flirting, poor payment history, adjusting payment amount without permission or explanation, consistently showing up unprepared, etc.)

Expelled students will not be refunded any amount paid.

**LEAVING THE STUDIO:** Students who decide to leave the studio half way through a paid month will not be given any sort of refund so if at any point a student decides to leave, it is recommended to leave at the end of the month.

For any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Texting is the preferred method to contact me.

I also respond quickly to emails.

If I need to be contacted by phone, please call me after 5:00 PM.

(I am a working musician and this means that I am often unavailable in the evenings as well. If I do not answer your call, please leave a message. I will call you back as soon as I am able.)

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