

Espressivo Piano Studio

Dr. Melinda Hickman, owner and teacher **Policies and Information**

How to contact me:

- Email: pmhickman@gmail.com (Email is my preferred means of communication)
- Cell: 513-661-6278 (Text me for same-day cancellations)
- Mailing address: 2532 Foxcove Court, Cincinnati, OH 45211

The annual program (September 1, 2025—August 31, 2026) will include:

For Children:

- 36 Private Lessons
- Two Group Classes (45 minutes each)
- Performance opportunities, usually Evaluations in the fall and Recital in the spring.
- Preparation for recitals, auditions, exams, and other events.

For Adults:

- 38 Private Lessons
- Possible social events (potlucks and soirees with optional performance opportunities)

Program does NOT include:

- Music books
- CMA annual registration fee (payable to CMA each Sept, or in the month you begin)
- Fees for outside events, such as RCM exams, festivals, competitions, etc.

Tuition effective September 1, 2025

There will be 38 lessons/classes held throughout the year. The number of lessons/classes in each month will vary from one to five. I have divided the annual tuition into 12 monthly payments, so the same amount is due each month. Please see my studio calendar for lesson days and off days.

- 30 minute lessons: \$130/month
- 45 minute lessons: \$188/month
- 60 minute lessons: \$250/month
- Family discount: two people in family, each with 30 minute lessons: \$250/month
- Individual lesson fee: \$82/ hour

Payment options:

Tuition is due on the 1st day of every month, even if the 1st falls during a break or vacation.

Payments after the 5th of the month will incur a \$25 late fee. Returned check fee is \$35.

Checks can be brought to the last lesson of the month, or mailed to my home address, above.

Payment methods accepted:

- Venmo (Melinda-Hickman-1)
- Check (payable to Melinda Hickman)
- Cash

Missed Lessons:

If possible, let me know at least three days in advance if you must cancel a lesson. I will offer make-up lessons in December, April, and August. On these weeks, only people who have missed lessons during the past four months may reschedule a lesson(s). I will not reschedule lessons for non-emergency same-day cancellations (for example, forgetting the lesson or having something else to do).

There is no guarantee that any missed lessons will be rescheduled. Missing a lesson does not excuse you from paying monthly tuition in the full amount. In the unusual circumstance that I must cancel a lesson, I will offer to make up the lesson.

See my studio calendar for scheduled breaks and make-up lesson weeks during the school year.

Inclement weather:

If I must cancel lessons due to inclement weather or hazardous driving conditions, I will contact you by text and email. Please respond so I know you received the message. Lessons will be rescheduled, if possible, but rescheduling is not guaranteed.

Lesson termination policy:

A 30-day notice is required for discontinuing lessons for any reason, at which point the final month's tuition will be due. All outstanding fees must be paid prior to termination.

Information for adult students:

Talk to me about your musical goals, and I will happily guide you toward achieving them! If there are certain pieces you long to be able to play, let me know. We will talk about practice strategies during your lessons. You will have opportunities to perform; however, I will never pressure you to perform if you do not want to.

Information for parents of children taking piano lessons:

I'm so glad to have the privilege of teaching your children, and I hope that they will find joy in making music as well! Piano lessons teach your child more than just music. They give them a healthy self-image and help them build perseverance and self-discipline. Piano lessons develop the ability to give attention to details, memorize, and concentrate—all skills which are important in school. Music study develops physical coordination as well as a sensitivity to beauty. It enhances their ability to praise others and accept praise. For a shy child, it can help them feel more at ease about performing in front of others, and for an extroverted child it can provide them with an outlet for all the performing they want to do!

Parental involvement:

Observing your child's lessons will help you guide your child's practice at home, and support their musical development. Each child is a unique learner, but in general, the following age guidelines apply:

Age 4-8: Parents should sit in on every lesson.

Age 9-11: Parents are encouraged to sit in on the lessons.

Age 12 and up: How much parental involvement is up to you and your child.

Practice:

Everyone who can play the piano well has put in hours of hard work practicing. That hard work can at times be frustrating, but it can also bring joy in itself. Practicing piano can be fun, bringing feelings of happiness and accomplishment!

From experience I have learned that the children who do the best in piano lessons are those whose parents support their efforts whole-heartedly. Of course, financial support is important, but so is taking the time to be involved in their practice sessions. I will do my best to make their assignments clear so that both you and they will know what to practice at home.

It is most important to set a consistent practice time! Make it a part of your regular routine, at a time when your child is not too hurried or distracted. I recommend practicing 6 days a week, with one day break. The amount of time spent practicing each day depends on the child's particular level of musical development. Young children and beginners may find it best to do two short practice sessions each day.

We'll talk more about *how* to practice in the lessons. Please let me know if your child is having trouble practicing.