

## Lesson Policies for 2023-2024

### Regarding Fees:

A half hour lesson is \$25, and an hour lesson is \$40. This fee reserves your time slot, so if you are absent for any reason and are unable to make up the lesson, I cannot reimburse the fee; make-up lessons can be scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays. Please note that this includes vacations even if I am notified in advance. If you are interested in taking a “double lesson” of flute then piano or flute/piano then theory, this is covered under the hour block (as opposed to two consecutive half hours).

Fees are expected to be paid before the lesson is given. If payment is missed, you will have until the next regularly scheduled lesson before a late fee of \$5 is added. If only a single payment is brought to the next lesson it will apply only to the current lesson, and the missed payment and the late fee will remain owing. Many students find it easiest to pay monthly. Please note that I only accept cash, cheques, or e-transfers, but I provide receipts for every payment. If you choose to send an e-transfer, please use the following information—

Question: [REDACTED]

Answer: [REDACTED]

### Regarding Supplies:

I provide all students with a duotang, which I’ll use to write down what we cover during lessons and what I’d like you to practice during the week. With younger children, I do my best to write in terms that will be understood by people who aren’t musicians to help parents/guardians understand what I’m teaching.

If you are learning classical piano, I teach out of Conservatory Canada. Beginners without a background in music will start in the pop primer book(s) and then will transition into classical. At the grade two level and beyond, I expect students to learn theory (the written part) in addition to practical (the played part). Theory lessons can be during regular lessons or an additional lesson in the hour format described in the fees section.

If you are learning pop piano, I teach from either Alfred’s “Music for Little Mozart” series for young kids, or Faber’s “Piano Adventures” series for older kids and adults. They both incorporate elements of classical training into their curricula, which makes my classically-trained little heart happy! Theory is optional in pop piano, so if you wish to learn it in addition to your playing, please let me know.

If you are learning flute, I tailor my curriculum based on the needs and background of each individual student using a blend of method books and music.

I supplement all curricula with music from my own library, including your choice of pop music (i.e., your favourite songs), custom arranged to your level. I also go at whatever pace you feel comfortable with, and will blend the pop and classical programs if that’s what you want. Music lessons should give you what you want out of them, so I want to work with you to create the perfect program.

## **Regarding Attendance and Weekly Practicing:**

Lessons are weekly at the scheduled time; if you are going to miss a lesson, please let me know as soon as you can. If you are feeling a bit unwell but are still able to attend lessons, please wear a mask to help keep everyone healthy. If parents/guardians wish to stay during the lesson, they are welcome to come inside—I have seats both in the lesson space and in the hallway outside.

When you show up for a lesson, come prepared with your music and your duotang. If you are learning the flute, you must *always* come with your instrument as I do not have any spares. I will provide the music stand during the lesson.

If you are early for your lesson, please wait in your vehicle until your lesson slot is set to begin. Cell phones should be on silent and are not to be used during the lesson. Chewing gum or candy is also not allowed. And most importantly: relax. I know that lessons can feel like a performance in front of a teacher sometimes, especially the first one. But it's a very casual environment and I want you to enjoy yourself.

During the week, I expect you to practice daily for at least 20 minutes. Without regular practice, the skills and techniques I teach won't become any easier and I won't be able to teach new things at the next lesson. Please read what I've written in your duotang before you start practicing to make sure that you practice all the songs you're supposed to. If you know that you won't be able to practice during the week (because of trips, exams, etc.) please let me know during the lesson and I'll accommodate that into my teaching.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with you this year!

**Sarah Kaukinen**

(807) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Brock St W

teaching@sarahsmusic.ca

www.SarahsMusic.ca

## 2023 – 2024 Lesson Schedule

<b>September</b>	
11	First day of classes
<b>October</b>	
9	Thanksgiving—no classes
<b>December</b>	
23	Start of Winter Break—no classes
<b>January</b>	
8	Classes resume
<b>February</b>	
19	Family Day—no classes
<b>March</b>	
11 – 17	March Break—no classes
<b>March – April</b>	
M. 29 – A. 1	Easter Break—no classes
<b>May</b>	
20	Victoria Day—no classes
<b>June</b>	
29	Last day of classes