

Daniel Watson Music LLC

Studio Policy 2023

Mr. Daniel Watson

Piano | Voice | Music Theory | Songwriting/Composition
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*“Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.”
- Victor Hugo*

These guidelines facilitate Daniel Watson Music LLC (DWM) Studio running smoothly and effectively in order to ensure an engaging and high-quality musical experience for all students.

Philosophy | This studio is committed to developing a comprehensive, fulfilling, and healthy music education to inspire a life-long passion for music and learning while growing one’s musical independence. All lessons are custom designed to meet the specific needs of each student and their unique skills and challenges. Students can anticipate a professional and positive attitude in an energetic, nurturing, and sensitive environment that promotes engaged learning.

Lessons Offered & Scheduling | Lessons are offered for piano, voice, music theory, songwriting/composition, or a hybrid of these skills for 60 or 90 minutes. Most students meet for lessons on a weekly basis. Other students may schedule lessons on a project-basis such as intermittent vocal coaching, preparing for an audition or performance, or recording an album. Lesson times are subject to availability and are scheduled accordingly.

Location | Students have the option of either in-person or virtual lessons (Zoom, Google Meet, FaceTime). Both options are offered for accessibility, convenience, and health. In-person lessons are most often held in Indianapolis at the DWM Studio ([Southside Indianapolis, Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood](#)). If a parent or sibling is accompanying and it is not distracting to the student, they are welcome to sit in on the lesson.

Lesson Payment | Lesson payment covers all studio charges including lesson instruction, preparation, planning, scheduling, research, and performances. Additional events (competitions/festivals) or additional suggested books will be paid for by the student. All payments are made by cash, check, or [Venmo](#).

Lesson Payments are due on the first day of the month (i.e. March 1) for all lessons scheduled within that month. For example, if a student has four lessons scheduled during March, payment for all lessons is due March 1. Generally, students can expect to have four (4) lessons each month according to their lesson plan. This allows more time to focus on music and less time asking “When do I need to pay for that lesson?”.

Musical Repertoire | Students will perform high-quality repertoire appropriate for their skill levels and growth goals. The teacher will help build students’ libraries by providing sheet music and recommending books or collections for purchase. We will select repertoire that is both enjoyable and educational. Life’s too short to make music we don’t love!

Practice | Like any skill, regular practice will increase one's abilities. The teacher discusses realistic practice goals related to the desired outcomes and goals with each student. Parents are asked to assist by providing a home environment conducive to healthy learning habits.

Missed Lessons

- If a student needs to cancel a lesson due to unforeseen circumstances, please notify the teacher *a minimum of 24 hours* prior to the lesson. Scheduled lessons cannot be made up at another time.
- Everyone's health is a priority. Students should stay home and do virtual lessons if they are showing any symptoms of sickness including fever, coughing, sneezing, etc. or are directly exposed to people showing symptoms. If you're sick, please consider doing a virtual lesson; there's still much you can learn and work on when you are sick! Making music is great for the body, and most people leave feeling much better than when they started the lesson. However, if you're "really sick", then the teacher prescribes no lesson, lots of water, and sleep.
- If a regular lesson time is not possible (due to vacation, conflicts, etc.), we may discuss this *more than 24 hours in advance* (more is ideal) and discuss the possibility of scheduling a virtual lesson at another time if available.

Communication | Students, parents, and the instructor will communicate primarily through **text** for immediate ("today") needs/cancellations/information and **email** for more thorough or future ("tomorrow & beyond") details.

Recitals | DWM will host recitals periodically throughout the year, scheduled in advance. Students will have the opportunity to share their music with family and friends in these recital performances.

Mutual Respect | Private lessons are all about trust. Students are trusted to bring their best self to the studio. Students trust the teacher to be present, aware and kind, bringing the best of his mental faculties and years of experience to your lesson.

- **Medical Conditions** | Please let your teacher know if you have any medical conditions including mental health concerns that may affect your voice/body. Many medications affect the voice/body, and it is important for your teacher to know how to help you keep your voice/body healthy.
- **Communication** | Music and learning are all about communication. Learning is a two-way street! Be confident and comfortable asking questions, expressing frustration or discomfort, or anything you are thinking or experiencing. Let's work together.
- **Safe Spaces and Boundaries** | I am not a therapist, nor do I pretend to be. However, singing and playing can be emotional. I have tissues.

***Benefits of Studying Music**

- Music study encourages abstract thought and stimulates right-brain activities--synthesis, creativity, intuition, and innovation--skills that are not adequately covered in other areas of the school curriculum.
- Music study develops attention span and concentration level.
- Music study enhances school readiness, fine motor control, use of symbol systems, following directions, concentration, memory, perseverance, visual and aural discrimination, organizational skills, task completion, and goal setting.
- Music study builds self-esteem and develops initiative.

*2014 Research findings conducted by Dr. Frances Rauscher of the University of Wisconsin & Dr. Gordon Shaw of the University of California.