



## STUDIO POLICIES 2023

### AGREEMENT FOR OUR WORKING RELATIONSHIP

#### I, Eva Skanse, agree to:

- Provide highly-trained technical and artistic knowledge of the subject taught.
- Teach in a way that is tailored to your current experience, skill, and needs.
- Be committed to your personal growth, goals, and success.
- Provide the full hour agreed upon, or an otherwise negotiated length.
- Start and end lessons on time.
- Provide a safe environment for creative music making, both in-person and online.
- Ensure that all technology on my end is ready for your lesson, and that you have adequate instruction on how best to prepare your technology.
- Give you at least 3 days notice if I cannot attend your usual lesson time for the week.
- Give you the option of being credited/refunded for the lesson or rescheduling at your earliest convenience if I cannot attend your lesson due to a sudden unforeseen circumstance.
- Ensure that all notes, recordings, and data related to our work together is secure, confidential, and will never be shared without your express permission.
- Maintain confidentiality of the content of all lessons. The only time I will involve a third party is to maintain your safety (i.e. if I thought you were in danger of hurting yourself or someone else). I will always first attempt to negotiate with you to involve a third party.
- Provide all learning materials and notes in a timely fashion.

#### As my student, you agree to:

- Keep a positive attitude, an open mind, and a willingness to learn.
- Be committed in time, energy, and attitude to your goals and personal growth as a musician.

- Pay the agreed upon fee by the due date as printed on the invoice. Fees are payable via Debit/Credit card, Venmo, Zelle, and bank transfer. Lessons are non-refundable under normal circumstances.
- **Give at least 48 hours notice** if you have to cancel for whatever reason or make payment in full for the forfeited session. If you are not in attendance at your lesson without giving notice that you are running late, I will wait 15 minutes after the scheduled lesson time before the lesson is deemed as canceled.
- In an “act of God” situation (i.e. death in the family, emergency, etc.), you will be fully refunded or credited.
- Be on time to lessons. To help you remember your lesson time, automated messages are sent out via text.
- For online students, ensure that your technology is ready to go. If you are having any trouble, please let me know and we can figure it out together. Please make sure your device is plugged in or fully charged. ***I highly recommend taking your lesson in the same room as your router, and ensuring no one else in your household is streaming anything during your lesson.*** Although this will eliminate most connection problems, if we encounter an issue, I will do my best to make up the time after your scheduled hour or in your next lesson.

## TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

### I believe...

...in a caring and professional relationship between teacher and student. We are a team, and each of us plays an equal role in the student’s growth. I will always strive to explain concepts clearly and methodically, and to support the student musically. In return, I expect the student to invest their time and effort into the agreed upon practice and attaining their musical goals.

...that all musical goals are equally honorable, from taking a high-profile audition to learning a new piece. I will work together with the student to find which goals fit them best, always challenging them but ensuring the goals are attainable and rewarding.

...that a solid technical foundation is imperative to being able to truly express yourself in an artistic way. I will always address technical issues as I hear them in the student’s playing, helping them to refine and hone their fluency on their instrument so that their musicality can flourish.

...that there is no “one-size-fits-all” teaching method. My method, the way I describe concepts, how I present new ideas, and the time distribution to each concept will adjust to each individual student as I gauge what works and doesn’t work for them during the course of our working relationship.

...that every student is capable and can think for themselves. It is my goal to guide the student by suggesting methods that I have refined over a decade of teaching, but the student can decide which methods work best for them. I only ask that the student approaches all new material with an open mind and attempts each proposed idea.

...that Western music history, folk tradition, and ethnomusicology make up a heritage that belongs to everyone who plays or studies classical music, and that it contextualizes what we are learning. I often present historic materials in lessons to enhance performance with a well-rounded understanding.

...that deconstructive criticism, negativity, and shaming has no place in education and are ineffective teaching. I will never intentionally attempt to make you feel inadequate due to a misunderstood concept or unpreparedness. Instead, we will work together to structure a more attainable practice plan, reassess our goals, or I will try a new way to present the misunderstood concept.