



Laura Dean

---

### *Piano at the Lauramusic Studio FAQ*

- **What is a good age to start taking piano lessons?** Any time between the ages of 5-adult is a great time to start lessons. The instructor will arrange for a studio visit to assess the readiness of a potential new student.
- **How long are the lessons?** Students receive 45 minutes of private instruction. One hour of instruction available upon request.
- **How much should a student practice?** Students have specific weekly practice goals and tasks written in their practice notebooks. The goal of daily practice is to accomplish weekly tasks and work toward goals. In fact, one of the greatest lessons I can impart on my students is the ability to work independently. Quality of practice is always better than quantity. Generally, a beginning student for the first two years should plan to practice 20 minutes per day. After the first two years, a later beginner/early intermediate student should plan to spend 30 minutes per day. Intermediate/Advanced students in middle school and high school should plan on 45 minutes to 1 hour each day. The practice time may vary according to each student and the projects at hand.
- **What materials do you use in your studio?** I use a variety of materials including books, magnetic note boards, games, and flash cards. The studio is stocked with appropriate books for each level of study. An annual book fee of \$50 is charged each September. For beginning students, I draw from *My First Piano Adventures*, *Faber Piano Books*, *Succeeding at the Piano Method*, *Royal Conservatory of Music*, and piano literature pulled from supplemental books in a variety of styles. Intermediate students play piano literature from a variety of composers such as Bach, Mozart, Chopin, Debussy, and Scott Joplin, to name a few. We also use supplemental books from different genres including jazz, blues, musicals, and popular. Each student usually works from 2-3 books at a time plus sheet music, and technical exercises on loose leaf pages in their binder.
- **Do lessons continue throughout the summer?** **Yes- students are required to take a minimum amount of lessons in the summer, as outlined in the Studio Policy**, in order to keep their slot. In fact, with the relaxed summer schedule, many students choose to take more lessons in the summer.
- **Does my child require a real piano at home for practice?** Parents are encouraged to provide an acoustic piano for practice as soon as possible after beginning lessons. However, a keyboard or digital piano is OK for the first year, but a student's progress will take off with a full size piano. A student benefits from the touch, dynamics, tone, nuance, and pedaling that a real piano offers. Renting or buying a second-hand piano are great options for families of beginners.

•**Can I observe the lesson?** Parents are encouraged to either drop their children off at the studio and the teacher will be in contact via email or phone call with any important follow-up information.

•**How do online lessons work?** Lessons are conducted via Zoom, Skype or FaceTime and work in much the same way as in person lessons with many of the same activities. At the scheduled lesson time, Laura will call or sign on to invite you into the lesson meeting.

## **What happens during a typical lesson?**

A typical 45 minute lesson may include any of the following activities:

- Body-mind warm-up and focus exercises, technical exercises and scales
- review of last week's assignment
- introduction of new material
- listening to a recording or a mini music history lesson
- reviewing past repertoire
- duets
- music theory focused activities
- improvisation
- composing original music
- playing music-related games
- rhythm instrument work.