



## STUDIO K WELCOME KIT

*Learn to play and love the piano*



Kirsten J. Helgeland, Owner and Operator  
[www.KirstenHelgeland.com](http://www.KirstenHelgeland.com)

Welcome to Studio K! I am delighted that you have chosen to read more about my studio and my work. I love music and enjoy sharing that love with my students.

This kit is designed to answer the most asked questions from potential students and their parents. You will find information about services offered, fees, scheduling, and a current calendar. As the schedule fills up, my availability for teaching at a time that is convenient for you or your child may disappear. Please check the website ([www.KirstenHelgeland.com](http://www.KirstenHelgeland.com)) for my most recent teaching schedule.

Hopefully this information will help you make a choice about scheduling an initial meeting with me at my studio. Should you wish to do so, please visit the website and click on the Contact Page. I do not charge a fee for an initial consultation. In the case of beginning students, this will be a trial lesson. In the case of transfer students (if you are switching teachers), then I will have questions for the student and parents and will want to hear the student play a selection of his or her choice.

## **SERVICES**

Studio K offers piano lessons, beginning voice lessons, coaching, and private tutoring.

Lessons are offered for 34 weeks during the academic year, with optional lessons during a portion of the summer. Lessons are billed monthly, over the course of 10 months (September-June). Payment is due at the first lesson of the month.

Both piano and voice lessons require the payment of a \$60 Enrollment and Materials Fee, which is non-refundable. \$30 of this fee goes toward enrollment, which reserves your lesson time for the full year. The other \$30 is a one-time materials fee, which pays for all the music that you use during the year (and is then yours to keep).

Students receive copies of studio policies, the policies for using the computer and Clavinova, and all other pertinent information at the beginning of their time of study.

## **PIANO LESSONS**

Studio K only offers private lessons, in 30-, 45-, and 60-minute increments. The fee per lesson includes an optional 15-minute session in the learning center. Should you choose not to use that time, the lesson fee remains the same. The length of lessons is determined, in part, by the age and ability level of the student.

60-minute lesson:	\$60/lesson \$204/month
45-minute lesson:	\$45/lesson \$153/month
30-minute lesson:	\$30/lesson \$102/month

## **VOICE LESSONS**

Studio K only offers private lessons, in 45- and 60-minute increments. The fee per lesson includes an optional 15-minute session in the learning center. Should you choose not to use that time, the lesson fee remains the same. The length of lessons is determined, in part, by the age and ability level of the student.

60-minute lesson:     \$30/lesson  
                              \$102/month

45-minute lesson:     \$15/lesson  
                              \$51/month

## **COACHING**

Studio K offers coaching in preparation for auditions, as well as accompaniment for recitals. Basic coaching services are offered in 30- and 60-minute increments. Payment for coaching is due at the time of the session.

60-minute session:     \$40/session

30-minute session:    \$20/session

## **RECITALS**

Accompaniment for recitals is separate from coaching, although the coaching sessions may be in preparation for a recital. The fee for the recital includes my practice time, travel time, and the dress rehearsal and final performance.

Full recital:            \$200

Half-recital:           \$100

(A half-recital is one that you share with another student, either of voice or another instrument)

## **PRIVATE TUTORING**

Studio K offers private tutoring in the areas of music history and music theory. Payment is due at the time of the tutoring session.

60-minute session:     \$30/session

30-minute session:    \$15/session

## **PRACTICING**

Most people know the old joke, “How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice!” I can’t guarantee that you or your child will make it to Carnegie Hall, but I can tell you that regular practice makes a big difference in progress, as does regular attendance at lessons. Practice usually involves repetition, too, unless an assignment is particularly easy.

For my youngest students, I suggest a minimum of 10 minutes per day. I try to teach practice methods during lessons, so that students know what to do when they get home. If necessary, I do have a practice sheet that I give to some students, along with stickers for those days when a student practices his/her entire assignment.

For older and adult students, I do not have a minimum practice time. I am aware that students and their families are busy and make suggestions for short assignments that can be done if time is limited during the week.

## **METHODS**

For my youngest students (ages 4-7), I use the Music for Little Mozarts series. Lessons for these students involve singing, playing, reading stories, and learning the elements of music in a way that is less daunting than the books designed for older students.

For students age 7 and above, I use the Succeeding at the Piano series. Lessons include some singing, flashcards, improvisation, theory, and learning pieces. This is a wonderful series that incorporates all the elements of music-making in a well-developed curriculum.

I have also used the Faber and Faber series, Piano Adventures, with students age 7 and above. This series is comprehensive, but different from the Succeeding at the Piano series. Typically, I have used this series when siblings of different ages are studying piano at the same time, to eliminate competition (perceived or otherwise) between siblings.

For older students who have advanced beyond method books, we select appropriate repertoire and learn the techniques for playing well, the history of the music/composer, and making real music.

For adult students, the choices are varied. If the student is a beginner, we will start with a method book that is suitable for an adult student. In other cases, students may bring music to a lesson and we will work on that.

## POLICIES

A full list of studio policies is available at [www.KirstenHelgeland.com](http://www.KirstenHelgeland.com), but I am including those that I consider the most pertinent here.

- ❖ Enrolling students are reserving their placement in the studio for the **entire year**. The Enrollment Agreement is a *firm* commitment and guarantees your place in the studio.
- ❖ A 24-hour notice of cancellation is *required* for a lesson to be rescheduled. Exceptions are not normally granted.
- ❖ **Under no circumstances will missed lessons be deducted from lesson fees.**
- ❖ Studio K reserves the right to dismiss a student if Dr. Helgeland believes that decision to be in the best interest of the student and/or studio. A refund of lesson payments will be made for all paid lesson not received *in this case only*.

## SCHEDULE

Lessons are taught during the following hours:

Tuesdays: 1:00-5:30 p.m. (lessons end at 5:30)

Wednesdays: 1:00-6:00 p.m. (lessons end at 6:00)

Thursdays: 1:00-6:00 p.m. (lessons end at 6:00)

Fridays: 1:00-4:00 p.m. (lessons end at 4:00)

The current schedule for availability is below. Shaded blocks are *not* available for lesson times.

Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1:00 PM		(cleaning)		
1:30 PM				
2:00 PM				
2:30 PM				
3:00 PM		(cleaning)		
3:30 PM			(cleaning)	
4:00 PM		(cleaning)		(Not available)
4:30 PM			(cleaning)	
5:00 PM		(cleaning)		
5:30 PM	(Not available)			

## 2023-2024 Calendar

Tuesday, September 5	Lessons begin
Tuesday-Friday, November 21-24	Thanksgiving Holiday
Tuesday, December 19	Winter Holiday begins
Tuesday, January 9, 2024	Lessons resume
Tuesday-Friday, February 20-24	February vacation (Studio K will be closed)
Tuesday-Friday, April 16-19	April vacation (Studio K will be closed)
Tuesday-Friday, 4-7 June	Last week of regularly scheduled lessons
Sunday, June 9	End-of-year recital (2:00 p.m.)

## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

Before contacting me, you and your child need to think about a few questions. I am always delighted to meet new students, or potential students, but I am also aware that the reality of piano and voice lessons does not always live up to our fantasies of what these lessons will be like. Making music is a skill that is not mastered easily, and sometimes the work isn't pretty. I do not say this to discourage any students, but only to make people aware of the challenges involved.

1. Is the student able to sit still for the length of a lesson, and to focus on a set task?
2. Is the student aware of the challenges involved, and the fact that progress is only made through work?
3. Is the student willing to practice, even for a minimum of 10 minutes per day?
4. Is the student willing to commit to the discipline of lessons and practicing for a full year? (I do not offer short-term lessons, except on pre-arranged terms.)
5. Is the student really interested in learning music?

I hope you have found this information helpful and informative. Please feel free to contact me, either at [StudioKJH@aol.com](mailto:StudioKJH@aol.com) or through my website ([www.KirstenHelgeland.com](http://www.KirstenHelgeland.com)).

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