

**♪ MUSIC LESSON INFORMATION and EXPECTATIONS**  
**2011/2012 TEACHING YEAR ♪**  
**Shelagh McKibbon-U'Ren R.M.T., U.M.T.C.**

**WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO SUCCEED AT MUSIC?**

- ♪ Regular lesson attendance
- ♪ Faithful and regular practicing on a Piano or full-sized digital Piano
- ♪ Diligent completion of assignments
- ♪ Cooperative support of parents/guardians

**LESSON LENGTH**

The following are suggested minimum lesson lengths that allow for the maximum benefit at the piano lesson:

- ♪ Beginners (any beginner method, including Alfred's Prep A and Prep B) – 30 minute lesson
- ♪ Pre-Grade One (Preparatory A & B Royal Conservatory; Alfred's Prep C; Piano Adventures Level 1, and Preparatory Rudiments) - 45 minute lesson
- ♪ Grades 1 and 2 Royal Conservatory (including Preparatory Rudiments/Basic Rudiments) – 60 minute lesson
- ♪ Grades 3 and 4 Royal Conservatory (including Basic Rudiments/Intermediate Rudiments) – 75 minute lesson
- ♪ Grades 5, 6 and 7 Royal Conservatory (including Intermediate Rudiments/Advanced Rudiments) – 90 minute lesson
- ♪ Grades 8 and 9 Royal Conservatory (Including Advanced Rudiments/Grade Three Harmony) – 90 to 120 minute lesson

***PLEASE NOTE:*** Students who are studying Royal Conservatory of Music materials are required to own a metronome (and practice with it when assigned).

**THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY**

- ♪ Arrive at the lesson on time and with all materials (books, dictation book, etc.).
- ♪ Complete all writing work in pencil as assigned.
- ♪ Listen and cooperate during the lesson, following the instruction of your Teacher.
- ♪ Maintain a positive and respectful attitude.
- ♪ Give any communications that are sent home to their parent/guardian immediately.
- ♪ Practice at home regularly as instructed by your Teacher.

**All students are required to practice 3 to 5 times a week on a regular basis!** Practice times vary from one level to the next. It is also expected that the Student will follow the directions written in his/her music and/or dictation book during their practicing sessions, and complete **all written work** as assigned.

The following practice times are a guideline only. The quality of the practice session is much more important than the quantity of time spent practicing.

- Beginner Students (Alfred's Prep A/B) are expected to practice 3 to 5 times a week. Practicing should take approximately 10 to 15 minutes per practice session. Each song should be repeated at least 4 times at each practice session.
- Level 1/Alfred's Prep C Students are expected to practice 4 to 5 times a week. Practicing should take approximately 20 to 30 minutes per practice session. Each song should be repeated at least 4 times at each practice session.

- Level 2 and Preparatory A & B Royal Conservatory of Music Students are expected to practice 4 to 5 times a week. Practicing should take approximately 30 to 45 minutes per practice session. Each song should be repeated at least 4 times at each practice session.
- Grades 1 and 2 Royal Conservatory of Music Students are expected to practice 4 to 5 times a week. Practicing should take approximately 45 minutes per practice session.
- Grades 3 to 6 Royal Conservatory of Music Students are expected to practice 4 to 6 times a week. Practicing should take approximately 60 to 75 minutes per practice session.
- Grades 7 to 10 Students are expected to practice daily. Practicing should take approximately 75 to 90 minutes.

## **THE PARENT/GUARDIAN’S RESPONSIBILITY**

- ♪ Work with the student to establish a consistent practice routine that is free from distractions.
- ♪ Ensure that the student is completing all assignments (playing and written) each week.
- ♪ Check the student’s dictation book weekly to ensure that you are aware of practicing and theory expectations, and to look for correspondence from your Teacher.
- ♪ Ensure that the student has a carrying case to use to bring their music books and materials to the lesson.
- ♪ Contact your Teacher if there is a concern.
- ♪ Complete all “*Parent/Guardian’s Response*” Forms sent home by your Teacher and return them in a timely manner.
- ♪ Ensure that the student brings all their material to each lesson. **The lesson will immediately be forfeited if the student does not have any of their material.**
- ♪ Ensure that the student has an appropriate full-sized Digital Keyboard or Piano (pianos should be tuned on a yearly basis).
- ♪ For lessons at your Teacher’s Home Studio, the parent/guardian must ensure that the student arrives on time and is picked up at the end of their lesson time. (For insurance and liability purposes, the Teacher **cannot be responsible** for students who are not picked up on time.)
- ♪ For younger and beginner students, parents/guardians are encouraged to assist their child’s practicing. Parents/guardians do not need to know how to play the piano in order to assist their child. Helping a child read the instructions for practicing will build their confidence. Parents/guardians can help sing the words to the songs as their child plays, and they can also use a pointer to point to the notes as the child is playing. (If you have any questions on how you can assist your child, do not hesitate to talk to your Teacher or attend a lesson.)

## **HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS**

The New Ontario Accreditation Policies allow high school students to be eligible for secondary school credit for the successful completion of the:

- GRADE 7 PIANO EXAMINATION & INTERMEDIATE RUDIMENTS = a Non-Grade 12 University/College Preparation Credit (Music - External (Conservatory), AMX3M)
- GRADE 8 PIANO EXAMINATION & ADVANCED RUDIMENTS = a Grade 12 University/College Preparation Credit (Music - External (Conservatory), AMX4M)

Thank you. Merci.

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