

♪ Piano Studio Policy ♪

Darryl Cremasco, B.Mus., M.Mus., RMT (ORMTA)

Conservation Rd, Guelph, N1H 6J2

519-546-8664 ♪ dcremasco@gmail.com ♪ www.darrylspiano.com

I welcome you to my piano studio – a place where children ages 7 and up can explore the awesome joy of making music! First, some laundry...

As I like to say, the parent - child - teacher relationship is like a tripod. In order for your child to flourish and enjoy her/himself each leg of the tripod needs to be strong in its role.

My responsibility as the **teacher** includes:

- *being ready* to start on time and having a clear plan for each lesson;
- establishing a *safe learning environment* where kids can be themselves;
- *getting to know your child* and finding a suitable teaching approach for her learning style;
- maintaining *regular communication* with you about your child's progress and addressing any issues of concern;
- teaching your child effective *practice habits*;
- and *challenging him musically* by choosing grade-appropriate repertoire and building skills in technique, theory, and ear training.

Students also have responsibilities in the lesson tripod, which include:

- *being prepared* and ready to start on time for each lesson, including muting cellphones, and having assigned homework ready to hand in;
- *practicing* 6 days a week, for around 30 minutes each day depending on level;
- *communicating* to me what they want out of lessons, i.e. Do they want to perform? Do they want to do a Royal Conservatory of Music exam? Do they want to do it "just" for fun?;
- *being respectful* by refraining from swearing and inappropriate behavior. A piano studio is like any other classroom. Children should wash their hands before each lesson as a keyboard is the perfect place for spreading germs!

As a **parent** you also play a very important role in your child's musical development:

- Provide a *quality instrument* for your child to practice on. Lessons are a big investment and equally important are the tools your child has to practice. An

acoustic piano (non-electronic) is ideal because the student can experience the natural weight and function of the keyboard from the get-go – not to mention the sound!

- If, due to cost or space, an acoustic piano is an unrealistic purchase then find an electronic keyboard with 88 weighted keys and at least a sustain pedal. Suitable keyboards can be purchased for under \$800.00.
- Be willing to *invest in music books*. Like textbooks they're not always cheap, but they're an essential part of the course.
- Also provide your child with a well-lit space to practice. The student should have a bench of the proper height to sit on.
- *Stay in the loop* with what your child is doing. Read his lesson notebook that the teacher writes in so you know what she needs to be practicing. I welcome parents to join us at *the last 5 minutes* of each lesson and watch what their child is learning. If a student is 9 years of age or younger, I suggest the parent stay in the studio for the first 1-2 months.
- *Communicate* questions and concerns to me by phone, text and email. If your son or daughter is going through something stressful at home or school it helps me a great deal to know about it.
- *Stay up-to-date* with payment. Payment can be made on a lesson-by-lesson, bi-weekly, or monthly basis. Pay in advance or at the lesson. Please do not make late payments. Cash, cheques, and e-transfer are accepted.
- Provide **24 hours notice** if you need to cancel (excluding family emergencies, illness, and inclement weather) – **failure to provide appropriate notice will require full payment for missed lesson.**

So the three of us make a team! A team needs to *work together* in order for it to succeed just like this triplet: the 3 notes together make a solid beat!



**Parent Consent Form for Audio Recording of Piano Lessons
Piano Studio of Darryl Cremasco**

Section 1 – Student Information

*Name_____

*Name(s) of parent/guardian_____

Address_____

Postal Code_____

*Telephone_____

Cellphone _____

*Email_____

Emergency Contact_____

**required*

Section 2 – Consent

I, _____ (name of parent/guardian), hereby authorize the recording of _____'s (student's name) piano lessons under the instruction of Darryl Cremasco. I understand that these recordings will be used for the teacher's educational purposes and no one but Darryl Cremasco and myself will have access to them.

Recordings will be kept on a hard drive in a secure location, and can be made available to the student/parent/guardian for practice purposes on request.

Signature of Parent/Guardian_____

Signature of Teacher_____

Date_____