



DORIAN ANTIPA

BASSOONIST & EDUCATOR

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Studio Policy

Scheduling, attendance, and payment

Lessons are offered on a weekly basis with monthly payment due at the first lesson of each month. Once lessons are scheduled, that time is “yours” in my calendar and I therefore maintain a standard private lesson attendance policy. Missed lessons without at a minimum of 24 hours notice will not be made up. With a minimum of 24 hours notice, up to four lessons per year may be rescheduled to accommodate student activities/illness or unexpected conflicts. On occasions where my performance schedule or an illness interferes with a lesson, that lesson will be rescheduled. Inclement weather days will be determined by the public school district and on such days, lessons may be rescheduled for a later date.

Lessons are offered in 45 or 60 minute periods. High school students should take lessons for a full hour and some advanced middle school students will find the full hour to be useful as well. **For every minute of lesson time, a student is expected to spend an equal minute practicing at home on a DAILY BASIS with one rest day a week acceptable.** The reason for this is simple: the success a student enjoys is directly proportional to the effort that student puts in. Daily practice is crucial to reinforcing the fundamentals learned in lessons and developing a level of continued improvement Please see my Teaching Philosophy for more on this topic.

The cost of private lessons is \$35 or \$45 depending on the duration and reeds are available for \$15 each. **“Wow, \$45 for an hour of music lessons? Isn’t that a little Expensive?”** This is a good and frequently asked question and one that deserves a good answer. The truth is that, as with anything, you get what you pay for. There’s always a cheaper option but it is important to look at the whole picture. It is imperative for a successful private music teacher to specialize in the subject being taught. While I started on clarinet many years ago, I have dedicated my life to the bassoon and only teach that one instrument. I do not have the current skill and knowledge to teach any other instrument in good conscience. I have had a private studio for fifteen years with former students of mine now in top universities including Boston University, The Hartt School, and University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music (UOP). My experience with young adults also includes youth symphony sectionals and chamber music coaching. I have also taught masterclasses for students of all ages and been a guest professor at UOP. As a performer I am very active both in chamber music and orchestral performance, now serving as the principal bassoonist with the Great Falls Symphony and member of the Chinook Winds.

Materials

In addition to the bassoon itself, students are required to have a few essential accessories.

- Seat strap.
- Swab. One is needed for the boot joint as well as the wing joint which can be achieved through the use of two separate swabs or one specifically designed to be used to clean both pieces of the instrument – check the fine print before you buy.
- Reed case. You may purchase a bassoon reed case or use a container such as an Altoids tin. If the latter, be sure to poke/drill three holes in the lid and base. Then line with paper towel or tissue to protect the reed. No holes = moldy reeds and sick students.
- Reed water cup. The easiest accessory and yet very important. Reeds must be soaked in water, not just in one's mouth as with a clarinet or sax reed. This can be as simple as a paper cup from the water cooler which is kept in the case and filled at the beginning of each rehearsal or practice session. I prefer a sealing container such as an old pill bottle or small jar to carry water safely in the case.
- Lesson notebook. I have a notebook where I keep track of each student's lessons and progress. Each student also needs a small notebook where notes and assignments may be written (pocket sized is fine).
- Metronome. Available at any music store – this will be well used.
- Tuner. I don't rely on a tuner early in a student's development but it will become necessary eventually. If you're out buying a metronome, Korg makes a good tuner/metronome combination for about \$20. This is also the most effective at registering the lower notes which are missed by some other tuners. I use the Korg TM-50.
- *Method for Bassoon* by Julius Weissenborn. Please be sure to purchase the older edition which is called the "New Enlarged Edition by Fred Bettoney." There are many other editions that have modernized the language and updated exercise titles, but this version is comprehensive and includes other exercises which you will otherwise need to purchase separately. It has an olive-green cover with a giant white "CB" over the front and is published by Carl Fischer (The updated cover may now be white with the logo in green. If in doubt, email me a link to the book for sale and I can confirm that it is the correct one). This is the bible of bassoon and will be well used. Beginners usually start using this book within the first month of lessons.
- Other method books and repertoire as the need arises.

Some of these materials may be found at local music stores while others must be purchased from a more specialized supplier. Such stores with online retail include Forrests Music, Midwest Musical Imports, Trevco-Varner Music, and The Music Source.

At Home

Students are responsible for developing a routine of daily practice. This is THE MOST CRUCIAL element to any musician's success. Just like learning a language (or just about anything), music cannot be learned through last minute cramming. 45 minutes of practice a day are infinitely better than practicing for a couple hours just a few times a week. Parents are responsible for providing a disruption-free practice space away from TV, radio, cell phones, pets, etc. The ideal space will have a mirror in which the bassoonist can watch his/her positioning and posture. If a piano or electric keyboard is available, this is also a very helpful tool.

Disclaimers

In order to protect myself and students, a video recording may be taken of all interactions that take place inside my home, from the front door to my office on the second floor. Video will be archive as a point of reference should any concerns arise regarding behavior or conduct. In my 15 years of private teaching, I have never had an incident of student misconduct or of a student being made to feel uncomfortable.

I ask that any learning challenges or disabilities be disclosed prior to beginning lessons or as soon as they are understood if they develop after lessons have begun. Any information will be kept confidential and will only be

used for me to better understand the student and work with them in a way that is suitable and effective. Anecdotally, I was assigned to coach a chamber ensemble many years ago in another state in which one member had somewhat severe condition that affected personal interactions and style of learning. While the student's private teacher and parents were aware of this, I was not told ahead of time. The result was that I was unprepared to effectively teach this student as it was not something I had previously encountered. Had I been given notice of this, I would have had time to research and prepare methods for ensuring the student was given the best environment to learn. All ended well but I would have preferred to enter our first rehearsal with more adequate knowledge.

COVID-19 update

I am no available to teach in person at the First United Methodist Church located at 610 2nd Ave N. Enter via the door on 2nd Ave N. Lessons will be held in the sanctuary to allow for more air space and significant distance. All students and parents are asked to wear face masks when not playing bassoon. I will do the same. I will arrange my teaching schedule so that I have time to clean surfaces between students and ask that you use hand sanitizer before and after you play. I will still be selling reeds to students but will not be working on them in lessons. All reeds will be disinfected and I recommend that you leave them in their plastic tube for a minimum of three days to ensure they are free from virus. Any student who wishes to continue with lessons online instead of in person is free to do so.

If you or anybody in your household is ill or is known to have been in contact with a COVID positive person, you must inform me immediately. Likewise, if I get sick or find out that I have been exposed, lessons will be moved online and I will let each student know of the situation immediately.

Because I am renting space at the FUMC, I will need to follow my attendance police strictly. Any makeup lessons will be held online.

In Conclusion

I use this document to ensure that we all get started on the same page regarding lessons and expectations. Email should be used as the primary form of communication, but phone or text is fine for last minute issues that may arise (running late, sudden illness, a pad just fell of and my bassoon doesn't work, etc.). Please feel free to communicate any questions or concerns with me as soon as they arise. Whether it's a question on a tricky fingering, lesson assignment, or anything else, please don't hesitate to email. My first priority is to provide a positive environment for students to continually grow their ability and potential as they learn this slightly quirky, but wonderful instrument.

Studio Agreement

Please sign below indicating that you have read and agree to the above studio policy.

Student _____ Date _____

Email address (optional) _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Email address _____

Phone (home) _____ (cell) _____ (other) _____