



Terms and Conditions

It is a Recognized Fact that to be most effective, instruction of any kind must be Regular and persistent; therefore, the following Rules Must Be Observed.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW

All new students to LPA will undergo an interview with the Executive Director and Teacher prior to enrollment to determine if the student is ready for private study and/or to assess starting level. Younger students not yet ready may be advised to enroll in a piano class program.

ENROLLMENT

Although enrollment occurs at the beginning of the school year, it is possible for students to begin lessons at other times, provided there is a time slot available in the schedule. If no time slot is available at the time of request, students may be placed on a waiting list until a time slot opens up. Once a student is enrolled and assigned a time slot in the schedule, that time slot will be reserved for him/her as long as that student attends regularly.

A student with four consecutive unexcused absences may be dropped and his/her time slot will be given to another student.

New Students MUST commit to at least ONE YEAR of lessons before deciding to terminate. It is unfair to both the student and the teacher to take only a few lessons and then drop out, as time is required to fully assess the student.

ATTENDANCE

A student **MUST** attend all lessons regularly and **ON TIME**. This is imperative for the student to receive total and complete instruction. Parent questions and discussions should occur at the beginning of your student's lesson so as not to go into the next student's time.

HOLIDAYS/STUDIO CLOSING

See Calendar of Events.

INSTRUCTION

Effective instruction in music and in the arts conveys knowledge of foundational principles, as well as their practical application. Music theory and history will be incorporated within lessons and special group sessions. Students will attend **40** 30-minute or one-hour lessons that may involve some group sessions, as scheduled.

PREPARATION AND PRACTICE

This is the most important aspect of learning to master the art of playing the piano or an instrument or singing; therefore, students are required to spend time **EVERY DAY** in piano, instrumental or vocal practice. This time should be spent following the teacher's assignment given at each week's lesson, as well as theory study and World of Music. Technical Musicianship; i.e., Hanon, scales, chords/arpeggios, and warm-up vocal exercises should be part of every practice. **Suggested minimum practice time:**

K to Grade 3 – 150 minutes each week (30 minutes a day for 5 days)

Grades 3 & 4 – 200 minutes each week (40 minutes a day for 5 days)

Grades 6 & Up – 300 minutes each week (60 minutes per day for 5 days)

There will be an extra piano for student use before lessons to warm up with scales or Hanon. This time may be included in practice minutes. **LPA will offer the opportunity, for a small fee, for students who need to practice here outside of lesson times.**

PRACTICE RECORD

Every student **MUST** keep a record of daily practice. This can be documented on My Music Staff on the website. If you cannot access the site via the student portal, you may bring in your practice record to your lesson. Parents of younger students are asked to help them with this. Awards will be presented to students with most practice minutes.

STANDARDS

This studio will follow the standards established by Music Teachers National Association, Texas Music Teachers Association, and National Association of Teachers of Singing. Theory is required for TMTA-sanctioned events. World of Music is optional but necessary for music history education. These are both required to be honored with the LPA top awards and CMTA/TMTA Senior Awards.

AWARDS

LPA will award Trophies at the spring recital to all students who complete all requirements of the **Outstanding Musician Award** {See **OMA** Sheet}. Annual testing, in addition to the State Music Theory Exam, is required of school-age students in the studio. A certified teacher will be brought in to hear and grade students. Participating students are awarded appropriately.

Theory Medals and World of Music Medals are awarded to all students who score 90% or above at your school grade level on the Whitlock Texas State Music Theory Exam and World of Music Exam.

Certificates are given to the First, Second and Third Place Winners in each of the following grade levels for the students who turn in the most practice minutes for the year. (Grades 1-5, 6-8, and 9-12)

Highest GPA is awarded to First, Second, and Third Place students earning the highest grade point average in Theory, World of Music, and Annual Testing.

Senior Awards: Students in school grade 9 should begin to prepare for the senior scholarship of \$300.00 given by Conroe Music Teachers Association each year. To win this award a student must participate in two CMTA Events each year during grades 9-11 and three events in the senior year. Plus the student must take and pass the grade twelve theory test.

STUDIO POLICIES

Lessons: There are 40 private and/or group lessons included in All Packages. It is imperative to attend all scheduled lessons, camps, and agreed on events.

It will be a standing rule of this studio that students **do not bring guests to lessons with them without prior permission from the teacher.**

Parents may attend lessons BUT may NOT interject. This confuses the child as to the knowledgeable authority in the room. Students up to six years old may need parents to hear the instruction to help them at home with practice.

Cell Phones: All Cell phones **MUST** be turned off. No incoming or outgoing calls during lesson. Voice students find recording in lesson very helpful. That is admissible with permission.

Illness: If your child is running fever or cannot attend school or other activities, please DO NOT bring him/her to lesson. It is best to try and reschedule the lesson rather than infecting the teacher and the entire studio. Just sniffing and wiping hands that touch the keyboard spreads germs.

Voice students may bring only **bottled water** during a lesson.

Students **MUST** provide a 30-day written notice to the teacher for termination and are responsible for all outstanding payments and fees.

WEBSITE – www.LoyPerformingArts.com

The website should be updated periodically to include new information. The site provides a link to My Music Staff, where you will be able to login and do the following:

- View the calendar of upcoming events, lessons, public events
- View your attendance
- View your borrowed and downloaded library items
- Track your practice time and leave notes or questions that you have from your practice session
- Add and track your repertoire
- View your email history
- View your number of make-up credits
- View your teacher(s) contact information
- Keep up-to-date with studio news
- View the family's account and invoice information (only visible to parents/adult students)
- The Student Portal also allows students to join and cancel lessons based on the studio's cancellation policy.

A Blog will be published on pertinent and fun topics. Students are encouraged to suggest topics and even serve as guest bloggers with permission.

RECITALS

Performance is a key ingredient to successful music study, as well as preparation for students to gain confidence in front of family and peers. LPA will hold two recitals each year. The Winter Recital may be an optional opportunity to serve in the community. Spring Recital is formal and MANDATORY, as this is the time when LPA honors students with Awards Earned for the year. These are open to the public and you are encouraged to invite friends and family. See Calendar of Events.

OTHER EVENTS

Throughout the year **Conroe Music Teachers Association (CMTA)** sponsors events, some of which lead students on to the state and national levels. These include Fall & Spring Festivals, Sonatina/Sonata Tournament, Piano Contests, Performance Contests, Special Projects, Publications Contest for written essay and video essay, Composition Contest, Whitlock Texas State Music Theory Exam, World of Music Exam, State Piano Ensembles. See OMA for other events available.

TMTA Chamber Music prepares students for state convention in June; however, LPA will sponsor a year-round chamber program that will be a separate payment option. This will include elementary through high school singers, instrumentalists and pianists.

Gold Cup Festival is an opportunity for students to perform for a judge in piano, classical and musical theatre vocal, and instrumental categories for a rating. Points accumulate each year. 5 points in 3

consecutive years (15 total) earns the student a gold cup. State options are also available for those interested.

Each level of study includes two to three of these in your yearly Event Fee. The Teacher and Student will choose appropriate events. If more than the covered events are chosen, there will be the additional fee.

Please note that not all students will be eligible or opt to participate in all events.

WORLD OF MUSIC

World of Music workbooks are available for each school-age student at school-grade level to work on at home. These contain music history and are very interesting for all young musicians. LPA will administer a test from the state in March. **This adds points to the scoring for senior awards at the state level, as does every state-sanctioned event you participate in.** Although this is not a requirement, it is essential for arts education and IS REQUIRED for those students working to earn the Outstanding Musician Award and the CMTA and TMTA Senior Awards.

SUMMER CAMPS

Each summer, students will spend one week in July/August in **theory camp** for a total of 15 hours. Study includes Theory games and activities to prepare students for the TMTA theory tests. The cost is included in your package. This is not included in Adult packages; however, adults are welcome to pay the camp fee and participate.

LPA will design a couple of camps for theater and chamber music, with other possibilities also being explored. Information on this will be available when ready. **Students may apply camp fee to these opportunities ONLY with permission of the Teacher and Executive Director.**

MATERIAL

LPA will try to keep an ample supply of material on hand to be issued to the students as needed. A notebook will be provided initially for music copies, assignment sheets, calendar, manuscript paper, and other materials as needed. This is included in Materials Fee. Replacement notebooks will require an additional fee. An original book is required when you go to contest; however, not every piece will be for that purpose. In addition, students will use Lesson and Performance books plus Theory and World of Music books. This is included in your Material Package fee.

We at LPA are delighted to have you as part of our music and arts education program and look forward to building a lasting relationship with you and your children. Music is not just a childhood experience but one that lasts a lifetime, either as a professional or just for your own enjoyment. Thank you for choosing Loy Performing Arts.