



Winter/Spring 2024 Studio Handbook Tuition

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Hello and welcome to the studio!

I want to begin by acknowledging that this studio is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. I'm still learning about what this means, and I encourage you to do the same.

Being a student in the studio means having fun, exploring, singing or playing weird stuff, learning, and supporting your studio-mates. Do your best to come prepared and on time to your lessons. All students are welcome to take part in studio events (e.g. Taylor Swift Nite, the Spring Concert). There is no extra fee associated with participating in studio events.

Thank you so much for joining me and trusting me to help you with your musical development. Although I like to be light-hearted, don't be fooled! I take my job very seriously; I want us to have a great time together. In my studio, I aim to provide you the following

- the safest space that I can for artistic exploration, expression, celebration, learning, and mistakes
- to respect your autonomy as a person, artist, and singer
- to treat you with kindness, respect, and good faith
- to communicate if something is wrong, as clearly and kindly as I can

In return, I hope *you* will

- treat the studio and me with kindness, respect, and good faith
- read these policies, respect them, and ask questions if you have any
- bring your best self to your lessons, whatever that looks like on a given day
- communicate if something is wrong, as clearly and kindly as you can

This document has everything you need to know about taking lessons with the studio this term. Since the studio operates a little differently than other music studios, I want to ensure we're on the same page and that you have all the resources you need for a fun and productive time in my studio.

Sincerely,
Bethany

Expectations

We want to maintain a positive and respectful environment in the studio. To that end, everyone is expected to follow these principles:

Respect: Treat each other, including myself, with kindness, respect, and good faith. We value diversity and strive for inclusivity in our studio community.

Communication: If something is wrong or you have any concerns, please communicate with the studio as clearly and kindly as possible. Open and honest communication is key to resolving issues effectively.

Preparation: Come prepared and on time to your lessons. Bring all the necessary books and materials. We want to be able to use your lesson time to its full potential!

Engagement: Bring your best self to each lesson (whatever that looks like on a given day), embracing new challenges and stepping out of your comfort zone. Be prepared to take chances, make mistakes, sound weird, and grow through experimentation.

Attendance and Punctuality: Value your lesson time and be punctual. If you need to miss a lesson, please notify me in advance.

Accessibility and Neurodiversity: If you have any specific accessibility needs or considerations related to neurodiversity, please let me know. We strive to create an inclusive and accommodating environment for all students.

Safer Space: The studio is a safe and accepting space. Discriminatory comments or behavior will absolutely not be tolerated. We are committed to fostering an environment free from racism, ableism, homophobia, and any form of discrimination.

Safety for Kids: Please ensure your child has entered the house before leaving. If your child is under 12, please come into the house to pick up your child.

Tuition format

Tuition is all-inclusive. This allows you to plan and budget because there are no financial surprises. Your financial commitment to your musical growth goes a long way! Lessons are offered in **50min** and **25min** increments.

- **For 50min lessons**
 - Tuition may be paid in a lump sum or in six monthly payments from Jan-June
 - Tuition is \$1788 for the term (or 6 monthly instalments of \$298)
- **For 25min lessons**
 - Tuition may be paid in a lump sum or in six monthly payments from Jan-June
 - Tuition is \$1092 (or 6 monthly instalments of \$182)

Whatever lesson length you choose, you can expect to receive the following

- Weekly(ish) lessons which involve
 - Personalized warmups
 - Personalized repertoire selection
 - Personalized technical development
 - Goal development and accountability
 - Access to Bethany's enormous brain (all that school was for something, haha!)
- Books and sheet music
- Swag bags for new students!
- Practice tracks (at teacher's discretion/abilities)
- A dedicated Dropbox folder for all your virtual studio materials (i.e. tracks, music, etc)
- The option to switch from in-person to online lessons on short notice
- Registration and participation in studio events (the Holiday Mixtape Project)
- Optional registration for other events run by the National Association of Teachers of Singing or the Nova Scotia Registered Music Teachers Association
- Two Flex Weeks (more on that below)

It's important to note that the studio functions a little differently than many other studios. Because tuition covers every aspect of being in the studio, students are not charged per lesson. This means that if you have fewer lessons in a given month (looking at you, June) OR if you have lessons on a day that has holidays (e.g. Good Friday) you still pay the same amount as the total cost of tuition is averaged over six months.

How to Register for Lessons

1. You fill out [This Intake Form](#).
2. We confirm the date and time of your new lesson.
3. I send you a link to purchase the tuition package.
 - If you choose to pay monthly, you will be charged automatically on the same day each month. For example, if you register on January 3rd, you will be charged on the 3rd of each month, with the last payment being June 3rd.
4. I'll book in all your lesson times for the semester.

5. You'll receive a confirmation email about all the lessons, and another confirmation email 24hrs before each lesson happens.
 - Please contact me if you have to miss a lesson!

Before Your First Lesson

- Read these policies (haha... but seriously)
- Think about what hopes and dreams you have for the term
- Brainstorm some songs you'd like to sing, you can make a playlist for us to listen to if you want!
- We use Zoom for online lessons. You'll receive a link via email on the morning of your online lesson.

First Lesson of the Term

The first lesson of the term is where we set goals, dream dreams, and make sure we're on the same page. New students' grownups attend the first 10-15minutes of the first lesson to ask questions and review the studio policies. We'll also talk about how online lessons will work if we need to have them and go over any questions you have about online lessons.

Invoicing & Cancellation

- Tuition is a 6-month commitment; it reserves your lesson time from January-June. **If you decide to discontinue lessons, you must pay the remainder of the tuition fee.**
- We use Acuity scheduling and Stripe payment processing.
- We recommend that you create a profile through Acuity. It makes things easier if you need to change something (like your credit card number or your contact info)
- Automatic payments are taken via Acuity using your credit card on file. We do not have access to your credit card number or information.
- If you choose to pay monthly, you will be charged automatically on the same day each month. For example, if you register on January 3rd, you will be charged on the 3rd of each month for six months, with the last payment being June 3rd.
- Alternative methods of payment (i.e. cheque, cash, e-transfer) can be accepted if necessary.

Studio Schedule & Important Dates

- The studio will be open for regular lessons Tuesday-Saturday from January 9 – June 30th
 - **We have 6 flex weeks.** This means that the studio is open for 23 weeks and we plan to have 17 lessons in that time. This leaves both of us room to miss a week (or six!) for any reason. Any lessons missed beyond our six flex weeks cannot be made up or rescheduled. If you *never* used a flex week, you would have your last lesson the week of May 13th. However, I've found that we tend to use flex weeks for sick days, snow days, and appointments that come up, so be prepared to have lessons into June.

- The studio will be closed the following dates
 - March 9-16 for Spring Break.
 - Friday March 19 for Good Friday
 - April 22-26 as Bethany is away to adjudicate a festival in Wolfville.

How to get to the Studio

- The studio is a bit weird to get to. It's a **small turquoise house** essentially in the back yard of a big turquoise house. **The studio is 2 Seminary St**, tucked behind 4 Seminary St.
- The studio has no driveway. Park on the street by the **pink flamingo!** He points to the path that leads to the studio aka my house.
- If you get lost please text Bethany at 902-297-9945

Bad Weather, Missed & Late Lessons, oh my!

Life is busy and you might have to occasionally miss your lesson time. We understand that things happen sometimes, and that's okay! **Your lesson time is reserved just for you, so no makeups can be given.** We have six flex weeks for wiggle room (more about those below).

Lateness

- If you arrive late to your lesson (it happens!) the lesson will still end on time.
- If you're going to be more than 10mins late (for 25min lessons) or 15mins late (for 50min lessons) your lesson will be cancelled.

Inclement Weather

If the weather is inclement, we can do an online lesson or use one of our 6 flex weeks (see below). Online lessons happen via Zoom.

Flex Weeks

The studio has 6 dedicated Flex Weeks. This means that the studio is open for 23 weeks and we plan to have 17 lessons in that time. This leaves both of us room to miss a week (or six!) for any reason. **Any lessons missed beyond our six flex weeks cannot be made up or rescheduled.** If you *never* used a flex week, you would have your last lesson the week of May 13th. However, I've found that we tend to use flex weeks for sick days, snow days, and appointments that come up, so be prepared to have lessons into June.

Skipping Weeks

Sometimes the best thing for your singing goals and mental health is to take a week off, and that is okay! We want you to take care of yourself. Bear in mind that lessons are merely a tool in reaching your goals. More does not always equal better!

If you have to miss a lesson for any reason, no problem! We will see you at your lesson time the following week. You've got six Flex Weeks available without missing any of our

planned lesson time. We cannot make up lesson beyond your six Flex Weeks (see above).

Other Lesson and Studio Info

- We have an open-door policy; guardians are welcome to attend any lesson at any time.
- Students can occasionally bring a friend to their lesson! Simply email me beforehand so I can prep.
- I have a dog and a cat! They are both quite friendly although Julian the cat can be a little shy.
- You are welcome to use the wifi (info is posted in the front room) or wait in the front room during your student's lesson.

The Studio is a Safer Space

We are fiercely and intensely committed to making lessons the safest space that we can. Racist, ableist, homophobic, or discriminatory comments of any kind will *absolutely not* be tolerated. We will *never* ask students to educate us on issues of race, racism, gender, sexuality, disability, or neurodiversity. If you notice something and want to help us do better, you are welcome to do so, but we deeply recognize that it is not the students' job to educate others on issues which affect them personally. The studio is a place of safety and acceptance.

Studio Special Events

This term the studio will be having several special events for students! The goal of these events is to allow students to meet one another, practice performance skills, and grow as artists.

Studio Kids Party (Ages 4-11)

This event will be held at the Yarmouth County Museum and Archives on a Sunday in February, date TBA. We will have snacks, play musical games together, and everyone will get a chance to perform for their fellow students. This is a great opportunity for students to perform in a low-stakes environment to gain confidence for our Spring Concert. We'll work on introducing ourselves, bowing, entering and leaving the stage, and other basics of stage presence.

Taylor Swift Nite (ages 11+)

This event will be held at the Yarmouth County Museum and Archives a Sunday in February, date TBA. There will be snacks, a group warmup, games, and everyone will get the chance to perform a Taylor Swift song for the group. We'll work on honing stage presence and each person's unique performance style.

Spring Concert (all ages)

This event will be held at Salle Pere Maurice Leblanc at PEB in Tusket, date TBA (it will be a Sunday in May or June). This is our grand finale and a chance for students to show off what they've learned this term. Students may invite family and friends to this event. There will be no

tickets to this event and no cost; just show up! Students are called 1-1.5 hours before the recital starts for a sound check and pep talk. Students are invited to wear whatever makes them feel confident and comfortable.

Communication and Office Hours

For non-urgent communications, please email me. For time-sensitive or urgent communications, please call or text. I try to answer non-urgent items within 48hrs during business hours. You can contact me the following ways:

- Email: bethanyturpinmusicstudio@gmail.com
- Phone: 902-297-9945 (call or text)
- Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday: 11am - 7pm | Friday to Saturday: 11am - 5pm