



Four Flavors Music Studios

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Academic Policies, Course Descriptions, and Goals for Students:

1st Level: Beginner: Focuses on fundamentals of tone production, elementary musical abilities, and basic musical theory. Students will ideally develop good practicing habits and playing skills during this stage.

Tuition: \$25 per lesson or \$100 per month

Prerequisite: None

Age eligibility: Age 10 and up

Lesson Duration: 30 minutes

Course description: The first 2 weeks will focus on basic posture and breathing habits, and on taking proper care of the instrument. Over the course of the year, students will learn preliminary musical theory and will learn to read the notes on the staff and their corresponding fingerings on the instrument. We will also work on tone quality, and on playing with good technique. After the basics of note production are learned, we will work on ensemble playing skills by playing duets.

Areas of Focus: Developing good practice habits, basic skills and preliminary music theory and ear training, basic counting/rhythmic skills, basic sight reading skills.

Text(s): Students will need to purchase the **Rubank Elementary Method** (Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation). Students will also be working out of various duet books during lessons, these will usually be provided during lesson time only.

1st year completion goals: On completion of the 1st year of lessons, students should:

- Be able to produce acceptable tone quality and intonation throughout the full range of the instrument
- Be able to understand the key signatures of C, F, G, D, Bb, A, and Eb
- Be able to play a one-octave scale in each of the above keys at slow or medium tempo
- Be able to understand time signatures 4/4, 3/4, 6/8, and “cut time”
- Be able to understand tempo markings
- Be able to understand dynamic markings
- Be able to understand basic musical terms
- Be able to understand and play whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes at slow or medium tempo
- Be able to sight-read quarter notes or better at slow or medium tempo
- Be able to play short duets, solos or other ensemble pieces on an “easy” –graded level, with correct pitch, timing, tone quality and technique

2nd year: Intermediate: Focuses on continuing technique at the intermediate skill level. Students will advance their further knowledge of dynamics, articulation, and tone quality while also developing greater technical facility and musicianship.

Tuition: \$25 per lesson, or \$100 per month

Prerequisites: Students should have completed at least 1 year of prior study on their instrument and should be able to play at a level consistent with the 1st Level Completion Goals as above.

Lesson Duration: 30 minutes

Course Description: The Intermediate Level begins by focusing on dynamics, and by reviewing any 1st level items that may still need some work. A simple playing test is given to determine whether the student is able to begin work at the intermediate level. Over the course of study, greater articulation, tonguing and fingering skills will be worked on. In addition to the technical studies, Students will choose a solo piece to work on with an accompanist, and will have an opportunity to perform and/or record this piece at some point during the year. Students will also work on elements of proper phrasing and looking at the “big picture” when they play or listen to a piece of music.

Areas of Focus:

- Tone Quality
- Technique and skills development
- Ear Training
- Music Theory
- Sight reading

Text(s): Students will need to purchase the **Rubank Intermediate Method** (Hal Leonard) and the **Concert and Contest Collection** (also Hal Leonard). Students may, with instructor’s approval, work on other solo or duet material at the appropriate grade level. Students will also work from duet books and other material provided during lesson time only.

2nd year completion goals:

- Be able to play a chromatic scale through the full range of the instrument at medium tempo with good intonation and tone quality, through full dynamic range from loud to soft.
- Be able to play major scales of two octaves or more in each of the following keys: C, F, G, Bb, D, Eb, A, Ab, E, Db, B
- Be able to play a prepared solo piece, with or without accompanist, on a “medium” grade level, with correct pitch, timing, tone quality, technique, and phrasing.
- Be able to prepare and play technical exercises incorporating sixteenth notes at m.m.=72 or faster.
- Be able to sight-read accurately at a medium tempo.
- Be able to play duets and/or other ensemble pieces at an appropriate grade level
- Be able to “listen critically” to music, to be able to discern qualities such as tonality, melody, rhythm, phrasing, form, etc.

3rd year – Advanced I: Focuses on continuing technique at the early advanced skill level. Students will spend focused time on in-depth scale study, duet/ensemble playing, technical articulation study, rapid tonguing and fingering exercises, and musicality.

Tuition: \$25 per lesson, or \$100 per month

Prerequisites: Students should have completed at least 2 years of prior study on their instrument and should be able to play at a level consistent with completing the 2nd level goals named above. Since the Advanced levels are meant to prepare students to play at a high level of skill, it is absolutely essential that students begin the Advanced level with good practicing habits.

Lesson Duration: 30 minutes

Course Description: The Advanced I Level course of study is structured around improving technique and musicianship to a high skill level. Students will spend focused effort on scales, finger exercises, and technical patterns, will play duets and solo pieces to develop musicianship skills such as dynamics and phrasing, and will spend in-depth time working on advanced techniques such as trills, grace notes, vibrato, etc. Overall, students will work to develop skills in interpreting music “beyond the notes”, and they will focus on the emotional/artistic element of music that makes it a performance as opposed to a study exercise.

Text(s): Students will need to purchase the **Rubank Advanced Method, Book 1** (Hal Leonard), and will also continue working from the **Concert and Contest Collection**. Other solo books of the appropriate grade level may be used with instructor’s approval. Students also will work on advanced duet and ensemble material in lessons.

3rd year completion goals: Upon completion of Advanced I, students should:

- Be able to play a chromatic scale through the full range of the instrument at fast tempo
- Be able to play major scales at fast tempo in the following keys: C, F, G, Bb, D, Eb, and A.
- Be able to play minor scales at fast tempo in the relative minor of the above keys
- Be able to play major arpeggios in the above keys
- Be able to play 3 diminished arpeggios
- Be able to play a prepared solo piece, with or without accompanist, at the appropriate grade level, with correct pitch, timing, tone, technique, and phrasing, and with appropriate attention to musicality/interpretation.
- Be able to sight-read accurately at faster tempos
- Be able to play advanced-level duet and/or ensemble pieces of music

4th year- Advanced II (classical emphasis) Focuses on continuing technique at the advanced skill level. Students will spend in-depth time practicing scales and technique exercises in more difficult key signatures and non-standard meters (5/4, 7/8, etc). Students will also work on long-term projects such as multi-movement concertos and sonatas and other large-scope pieces. Students will have opportunities to perform and/or record these pieces during the course of the year.

Tuition: \$50 per lesson, or \$150 per month

Prerequisites: Students wishing to continue the Advanced track should have completed Book 1 of the Rubank Advanced series to their instructor's satisfaction.

Lesson Duration: 1 hour

Course Description: The Advanced II course is more than just a continuation of the Advanced I course. At the beginning of the Advanced II course, students are given a choice whether to either continue in the Rubank books or to adopt a more intensive, in-depth course involving other books and methods. Students will begin to be able to chart their own course of musical development and choose their own areas of emphasis. Students will be encouraged to find their own solutions to problems, and musical creativity is emphasized at great length throughout.

Text(s): Either the **Rubank Advanced Book II** –OR- a combination of the following books: a **scale book** by one of the following authors: **Pares, Londieux, Klose, Kynaston, or Joe Viola**; One of the **following etude books: Rubank Selected Studies, Rose Etudes, or Ferling Etudes**; and a **major composed work** or collection such as the Mozart Concerto k.622, the Beethoven Duo in B-Flat for clarinet and bassoon, the Bach Cello Sonatas, or other grade-appropriate music. We will also be working from the **Rubank Advanced Duets** book in lessons only.

4th year completion goals

- Be able to play all major scales in all keys over the full range of the instrument
- Be able to play all major arpeggios in all keys
- Be able to play all minor scales in all keys
- Be familiar with difficult key signatures such as B, F#, C#, etc.
- Be able to single-tongue sixteenth notes at m.m.=480 (quarter note = 120) or faster
- Be able to sight-read accurately at faster tempos
- Be able to compose or invent fingering exercises that address specific technical problems.
- Prepare, perform and/or record a lengthy solo or duet piece at the appropriate grade level, accurately and with emphasis on musical interpretation

4th year – Advanced II: (Jazz emphasis) Focuses on the elements and techniques of Jazz playing including improvisation, theory, jazz rhythms, advanced sight reading, and other abilities relevant to the jazz style of playing.

Tuition: \$50 per lesson, or \$150 per month

Prerequisites: Students must have completed at least 3 years of study on their instrument, or show abilities consistent with advanced level technique. Students should have excellent practice habits and discipline. *A minimum one hour practice time per day is required.*

Lesson Duration: 1 hour lessons

Course Description: Advanced II Jazz Emphasis focuses on three main areas: Music Theory and the study of chords and harmony, Jazz Rhythms, Articulations and Inflections, and continued Technical Mastery of the instrument. Jazz is about being able to apply one's knowledge and skills to compose music on the spot during performances, often with only a basic outline of the underlying chord progression to work from. As a result, a strong emphasis will be placed on music theory and the specific study of chords and harmony. Students will also work on improving their scale technique, including major and minor scales, pentatonic and modal scales. Students will also be given the opportunity to listen to as much jazz as possible, and to analyze and understand what they are listening to. Students will work on transcribed jazz solos as played by recording artists, and they will also work on improvising along with prerecorded play-along tracks of piano, bass, and drums.

Text(s) The Real Book or other jazz fake book; a scale book, a book of jazz etudes or chord studies. Other course materials will be handed out at lessons.

4th year completion goals

- Be able to play all 12 major scales at fast tempo
- Be able to play all major arpeggios in all keys
- Be able to play minor scales in all keys
- Be able to play using "bebop tonguing"
- Be able to play using advanced techniques such as vibrato and altissimo
- Be able to understand diatonic intervals by ear and by sight
- Be able to understand scale degrees and how they function
- Be able to demonstrate knowledge of how chords function
- Be able to demonstrate knowledge of common chord progressions such as ii-V7-I
- Be able to improvise over 12-bar blues in a variety of keys
- Be able to play a transcribed jazz solo, from memory, and up to tempo
- Be able to play a few common jazz "standards" – melody and improvised solo
- Be able to understand transposition, be able to convert a "Concert" lead sheet into the appropriate key for Bb Tenor, Eb Alto sax, or Bb Clarinet

5th year – Advanced III (Classical Emphasis)

Prerequisites: Completion of Advanced II, or demonstrate ability consistent with Advanced II level study.

Lesson Duration: 1 hour lessons

Tuition: \$50 per lesson, or \$200 per month

Course Description: Advanced III Classical Emphasis is a Master-level study of classical techniques. Students should have excellent practice habits and discipline. *A minimum one hour practice time per day is required.*

In lessons, we will focus on the finer points of performance as well as continuing to develop virtuoso-level technique. Students will work on at least one Major Work, such as the Glazounov Concerto, the Creston Sonata, the Mozart Concerto for Clarinet, etc. Students will also focus on listening, and they will study musicianship and musicality in addition to technique study. Some emphasis will be placed on the “Inner Game” of music, the psychological aspects of performing, and developing an intensity to the performance that involves listeners and draws them in. Students will have an opportunity to perform a recital concert where they are the main attraction of the evening.

Text(s) A major concert work, a scale book (see above), an advanced etude book such as the Marcel Mule studies. Other books that will be helpful: **The Inner Game of Music** by Barry Green, **Effortless Mastery** by Kenny Werner.

5th year completion goals

- Choose, program, prepare, and perform a full-length recital or concert.
- Bonus: compose at least one original work to be performed at the above recital

5th year – Advanced III (Jazz Emphasis)

Tuition: \$50 per lesson, or \$200 per month

Lesson Duration: 1 hour lessons

Prerequisites: Completion of Advanced II (Jazz Emphasis), or equivalent knowledge. Students should have a good working knowledge of music theory and should be able to improvise a solo on 12-bar Blues, Rhythm Changes, and other standard forms. Students should have excellent practice habits and discipline. *A minimum **one hour practice time per day is required.***

Course Description: This course is for advanced jazz students. We will focus on learning tunes in the standard jazz repertoire as well as extending the abilities and techniques on the instrument. Doubling is also encouraged; students who play saxophone as their main instrument should begin to study flute and clarinet, and vice versa. We will also focus on jazz composition and arranging; students are encouraged to compose their own jazz tune and to perform it in a recital or concert. Students are also encouraged to seek out opportunities to sit in at jam sessions around town and extend their own experience by playing out in public.

Text(s): The Real Book

5th year completion goals

- Be able to improvise solos at faster tempos on a variety of chord progressions.
- Be able to transpose melody and chords from Concert key to Bb for Tenor, or Eb for alto
- Be able to sight read complicated jazz melodies and rhythms at fast tempo
- Compose an original jazz tune and perform it with a rhythm section
- Attend a jazz jam session around the Portland area and play an improvised solo with a real rhythm section

5th year – Advanced III (Student Teaching Emphasis)

Tuition: \$50 per lesson, or \$150 per month

Lesson Duration: 1 hour lesson PLUS 1/2 hour time per week auditing a younger student's lesson.

Course Description: Advanced III Student Teaching is an exciting opportunity for Advanced students to gain some experience working with younger students. Students will have a regular lesson during which their own technique and musicianship will be advanced, and then students will spend an additional half hour in a lesson with a younger student. At first, the Advanced III student will audit the lesson while the instructor teaches; gradually the student will be given greater teaching responsibility and opportunity to work with the younger student under the instructor's supervision. Students will be encouraged to take on beginning students of their own at the end of the 5th year.

Text(s) Additional course materials at instructor's discretion

5th year completion goals:

- Be able to conduct a 1/2 hour lesson with a beginning student in the role of instructor