Student Handbook

For the Saxophone Students

of Lucas Hopkins

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925-813-5021

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Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to my private saxophone studio! I have been teaching private lessons for about 10 years, in which I have worked with a wide variety of students ranging from fourth graders to adults in their 60s, and beginners to more advanced high school students. I look forward to helping you reach your goals, what ever they may be, and to help students not only establish solid fundamentals on their instruments, technical facility, rhythmic fluency, and the ability to create musical interpretations, but to help students learn how to practice and teach themselves when they are on their own.

Through my extensive musical training, influence from former teachers, and performance experience in a variety of styles, I have a wealth of knowledge and recourses available to me in order to effectively tailor lessons to each individual student’s needs. I also do my best to make lessons fun and enjoyable for students through the use of technology, the study of various styles, and by allowing them to work on appropriate music that they are interested in.

Once a certain level of proficiency is reached, students are encouraged (but not required) to study both classical and jazz in lessons. I feel this flexibility is extremely important as a saxophonist as we are often called upon to play in multiple styles. I am happy to help students learn how to improvise and play in a jazz style.

Now here is a bit about me:

Throughout my studies I have studied with some of the most highly esteemed teachers at some of the most prestigious schools of music. I have a master’s degree and post-master’s (specialist degree) in saxophone performance from Northwestern University and the University of Michigan respectively, where I studied with world-renowned saxophonist Timothy McAllister, as well as jazz with Andrew Bishop and Bill Sears. For my undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota, I studied with classical saxophone legend Eugene Rousseau.

As a performer, I have won multiple competitions, performed with several orchestras both as a concerto soloist and as a member, and perform with the internationally rising professional saxophone sextet, The Moanin’ Frogs. As a jazz musician I frequently perform at various events, parties, fundraisers, and restaurants.

Please review my policies that were designed to ensure fairness for both the teacher and student and feel free to address any concerns with me as some policies may be flexible to accommodate your needs. I look forward to working with you or your child and sharing with them what I have learned over my many years of training, performing and teaching!

Sincerely,

Lucas Hopkins

**Policies**

**Rates**

My rates are as follows:

In studio: 30 minutes - $\_\_\_\_\_, 45 minutes - $\_\_\_\_\_, 60 minutes - $\_\_\_\_\_

In home lessons: I may be able to come to your home for an additional charge. Depending on distance this is usually $6-10 extra.

**Payment**

Payment may be made in check or cash and is due at the first lesson of the month based on the number of lessons to be given in the month. A $5.00 late fee will be added if payment is more than one week late.

**Missed Lessons**

If a lesson is missed and I am not given at least 24 hours notice, no refund or makeup lesson will be given and the full lesson price must be paid as I do my best to reserve your lesson time in my day. If a student is sick, you should give as much notice as possible.

**Canceled and Rescheduled Lessons**

Please do your best to keep your normal lesson time and schedule other commitments around it. I do realize that occasionally things come up that will conflict with your lesson time. In this case I ask that you give me as much advance notice as possible to cancel or reschedule your lesson. In most cases only one canceled lesson (without a makeup) will be permitted per month. You should give at least 5 days notice for a canceled lesson (without a makeup); otherwise it must be rescheduled if at least 24 hours notice is given. Rescheduled make up lessons should be taught preferably in the same week that they are missed but no latter than 4 weeks after the original lesson.

**Tardiness**

Students should be on time to all lessons (ready to begin the lesson at the scheduled time); please plan accordingly. If students are late, I may not be able to teach past the original stop time. If you are running more than 5 minutes late you should call or text me to let me know you are on your way.

**Teacher Conflicts**

As a professional musician, I will occasionally have performances or other commitments that may conflict with your lesson time. In this case, I may have to cancel or reschedule some lessons. In order to be fair, this is why I give the option for students to reschedule or occasionally cancel a lesson. For all lessons that I miss I will strive to give as much notice as possible.

**Practice**

Students are expected to regularly practice between lessons in order to gain the full benefit of your investment in lessons. The amount of time a student should practice varies depending on the student’s ability level, and their goals. In general students should aim to practice at least 5 days a week for 15-60 minutes for maximum benefit.

**Terminating Lessons**

Feel free to address any concerns you or your child are having about lessons or the saxophone with me. If you wish to stop taking lessons at any time, I ask that you give at least two weeks notice in order to receive a full refund. Less than that is subject to a refund of 75%. It is your responsibility to ask for a refund.

**Parents**

Parents are welcome to sit in the lesson if they wish, wait outside, or drop their child off. I cannot wait with your child if you are late to pick them up.

**Summer Lessons**

Students are encouraged to continue lessons during the summer and other school breaks. As schedules can often be very different during the summer, both for you and the instructor, scheduling and payment can be worked out on an individual basis if the student wishes to continue lessons during the summer.

**Refer A Friend Discount**

If you refer someone to take lessons with me, I will give you a $40 lesson credit after they take 4 lessons with me.

**Supplies and Materials**

Students should bring a notebook to their lessons and the music they are working on. I may occasionally provide photocopies of pieces to work on, but in certain cases I may require students to purchase certain method books or pieces of music.

Reeds: Students should always have multiple reeds in good condition and new reeds on hand; reeds do not last forever, and not all reeds play the same. Feel free to ask me what size reeds to get. Most beginners should use size 2 or 2.5 reeds. For better quality reeds, I would recommend Vandoren traditional reeds or D’Addario Reserve reeds, although Rico or Rico Royal reeds would suffice in many cases and are more affordable.

Students should own a metronome and tuner: These can be bought at a music store or online, or can be downloaded as apps on a Smartphone.

Saxophones are fragile and should be treated with care. Occasionally you may need to bring your instrument in to the shop for repairs. If you are planning on buying a new instrument, feel free to ask me for suggestions.

Mouthpieces: Not all mouthpieces play the same. Sometimes poor mouthpieces can be the cause for problems a student is having with tone quality or response. Even if a student is using a school owned instrument, it is advised for students to purchase their own mouthpiece. Good mouthpiece options (from most to least expensive) are: Selmer C\* (or s90 180), Vandoren AL3, Rousseau NC4, Yamaha 4C.

**Signature Page**

By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to all of the policies contained in the Student Handbook. Any concerns should be addressed with the instructor.

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact information**

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(or adult student name)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Method of Communication \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Optional:

Additional Parent Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything I should know bout your child, or special needs? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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