

Leander Music Academy

Mission Statement

Leander Music Academy is committed to providing high-quality music lessons, ensemble opportunities, and courses to students of all ages and experience levels in a supportive and motivating environment. Through varied course offerings, students will grow as holistic musicians through personal development, performance, and community involvement. Leander Music Academy (LMA) values excellent performance, communal music-making, and a stimulating learning environment that pushes and encourages those who participate. We aspire to be a valuable contributor to the creative community, training excellent musicians who support each other through thoughtful feedback, group participation, and regular performances.

Studio Policies

We could write a book on everything involved in the parent/teacher/student triangle. In fact, there are many already written on the subject (check out *Nurtured by Love* by Shinichi Suzuki)! In summary, here are a few expectations for each role in the triangle.

Student Expectations: Students are expected to...

- *Practice.* You will have success when you practice regularly! When you practice well, you get to move forward and learn even more intricate skills. Hard work in the moment leads to exciting results down the road. Consistent practice is vital!
- *Be prepared.* Bring music, instrument, rosin, shoulder rest/sponge, lesson notebook, and a pencil to each lesson. The teacher reserves the right to cancel the lesson for the day if you arrive without a necessary item (i.e. instrument and music).
- *Arrive on time.* Please arrive a few minutes before your lesson time. Do not arrive extremely early, as lessons are often booked back-to-back. If you are attending a virtual lesson, please join the call right at your lesson time. Lesson time cannot be extended for a late arrival.

Parent/Guardian Expectations: Parents are expected to...

- *Facilitate a practice routine.* Students need help establishing and maintaining a routine. Pairing practice time with a habit that is already established, such as dinner time, brushing teeth, or eating breakfast can be a helpful way to make sure it happens every day.
- *Monitor practice.* Check in with your child during their practice time. Ask them to show you what they're working on, do practice performances, and make sure they understand what their goal of the practice session is for that day. Your interest and involvement go a long way!

- *Know weekly goals.* Talk with the teacher, go over lesson notes, and make sure you understand what your child should focus on that week at home.
- *Attend lessons.* For young students, a guardian must be present during lessons. You are their practice partner during the week, and they need your help to accomplish their goals!
- *Check announcements.* The studio calendar is available on MyMusicStaff, as well as important announcements. Please check this portal first if you have any questions regarding scheduling or studio events. The information may already be there!

In most cases, progress in students is directly correlated with parental involvement in lessons and practice time. Parents may feel free to discuss the necessity of this with us as their child progresses and becomes more independent in lessons.

Teacher Expectations: The teacher is expected to...

- *Communicate clear goals.* Everybody should leave their lesson feeling confident and ready to tackle goals for the week!
- *Provide quality instruction.* All of our teachers have received extensive training, and it is their responsibility to provide well-thought-out feedback and continue their personal training and involvement in the professional community.
- *Connect families with opportunities.* Let's put this musical development to use! The teacher should always be looking for experience offerings outside of lessons to enrich student learning.

If a student is consistently unable to meet practice expectations, the teacher may recommend that the family take a break from lessons until they are ready for the commitment. This decision would be made only after the teacher voiced concerns to the family and the habit continued. Their lesson slot will then be given to someone on the waiting list.

Studio Semesters: The studio functions in three semesters – Spring, Summer, and Fall.

The Spring semester runs from the beginning of January to Memorial Day.

The Summer session is from June through August and is the only semester when lesson fees may be paid per-lesson on a weekly basis (apart from the one-month trial period available to all new students).

The Fall semester will run from the day after Labor Day until Christmas break.

New Students: There is a trial period of one month of lessons during which the student can decide if they would like to continue. During this period, lessons may be paid weekly. Studio policies only need to be signed at the end of the trial period if the student chooses to continue lessons.

Group Lessons for Private Students: Once or twice a semester, students in the studio will participate in a group lesson with their instrument class in place of private lessons or classes for

that week. We believe in the power of collaboration and community, and so enjoy this option to meet and play music with other students in the studio. Plus, we get to make new friends!

Lesson Time: Lesson times will be agreed upon at the start of every semester. Changing the lesson time mid-year (September - May) may be difficult and cannot be guaranteed. If you are having scheduling conflicts, please talk with your teacher and we will try to find a solution!

Practice: Lessons are only once a week, so daily at-home practice is vital to making progress. We want you to succeed and be encouraged, and progress comes through consistent quality time with the instrument. Important life skills can be learned through studying an instrument, and diligent practice is a huge part of this. Some general guidelines are listed below:

- Practice at least five days a week! Practice sessions spread out across several days are more beneficial than a long cram-session right before a lesson. Even 5 focused minutes are helpful!
- Practice length will vary based on the age of the student and level of repertoire. Talk with your teacher about a recommended daily length. A general guide is to practice at least the same amount of time as your weekly lesson length – a half hour or an hour!
- Make practicing fun! Talk with us about different games and activities to keep your child engaged and excited during their practice time.
- Review, review, review! When you “pass” a piece in a lesson, your time with it is not over! Keep a regular cycle of review going throughout daily practice time. This helps students apply new concepts to comfortable material, and builds an extensive repertoire of music they can perform!
- Your child will likely need parental guidance during their practice time. Keeping them on task and celebrating small achievements can make practice time enjoyable!
- Practicing is as much the parent/guardian’s responsibility as it is the student’s. Help them stay consistent!

Fingernail Length: Playing a string instrument requires that nails be clipped so that the nail is shorter than the fingertip. Acrylic/Press-on nails may not be worn while playing a string instrument or piano. Short nails are necessary for students to play with proper technique.

Payment Options: For those enrolled in lessons (no longer in the trial period), payments are due at the beginning of every month in a flat-rate tuition installment. This fee will not fluctuate; it will remain consistent September - May. The months of June, July, and August will continue with a by-lesson payment option to leave flexibility for summer travels and schedules.

1. Monthly – Pay the monthly tuition on the first of the month
2. Per lesson – This option is only available in specific circumstances (i.e., during the trial period or the months of June, July, and August)

Payments may be made by cash, check, online with card, or with the Hope Scholarship. Automatic payments are available with Stripe through MyMusicStaff for those who prefer that option. Online card payments are subject to an additional fee.

Rates:

Private Lessons

Per-lesson price (valid for the trial period; the months of June, July, and August; and additional lessons)

Half-hour: \$30

Hour: \$60

Monthly tuition (weekly lessons excepting for scheduled breaks)

Half-hour: \$100

Hour: \$200

Group Lessons

(talk with your teacher to see if a group class will be a good fit for you)

2 Students (30 minutes, weekly excepting for scheduled breaks)

Monthly tuition (per student): \$75

3+ Students (45 Minutes, weekly excepting for scheduled breaks)

Monthly tuition (per student): \$75

For payments made after the 7th of each month, there is a \$5 late fee.

Courses

Introduction to Music Theory (weekly excepting for scheduled breaks)

Sept 15, 2026 - Nov 17, 2026

\$225 for the entire course

Advanced Chamber (weekly excepting for scheduled breaks)

Oct 1, 2026 - Dec 17, 2026

\$300 for the entire course

Scheduled Breaks: The studio will not meet for lessons or classes on Labor Day, Thanksgiving week, two weeks for Christmas and New Years, one week for spring break (following the Fayette County public school schedule), and Memorial Day. Tuition rates remain the same for every month, regardless of holidays.

Cancellations: If the teacher cancels a lesson outside of the expected studio schedule, either a makeup lesson will be offered, credit will be given toward the next month's tuition, or a refund will be given for that missed lesson. The student and their family may choose which of these three options works best for them on a case-by-case basis. Occasionally, lessons may be moved to a virtual platform if the teacher is traveling and able. Otherwise, the makeup, roll-over, and reimbursement options will be offered.

Illness: The school year is full of opportunities to share; unfortunately, this includes sickness and illness. If you are feeling sick, please abstain from attending in-person lessons to reduce sharing sickness with others. If you are sick, but are feeling well enough for a lesson, a virtual lesson will be available by request. Let your teacher know as soon as possible if illness will prevent you from attending your lesson, and please stay home to recuperate!

Inclement Weather: For everyone's safety, snow days will follow the Fayette County school system, and for lessons offered in other counties, those counties' snow days will also be taken into consideration. In most cases of inclement weather (when electricity and service remain strong), lessons will be available virtually by request. No refunds will be made for snow days, even if the student does not choose to participate in the virtual lesson option or if circumstances do not allow for a virtual lesson to be offered.

Virtual Lessons: Virtual lessons are offered through Google Meets and FaceTime. A few things to keep in mind with virtual lessons are listed below:

- **Quiet location:** Students should have their lesson in a location with little family traffic and distraction.
- **Visible Setup:** Please find a device setup where the entire instrument, both hands and bowing area, and face of the student are all visible. Lessons will be much more effective this way!
- **Audio Settings:** Please test the sound prior to your lesson time. Some automatic settings will mute the upper range of an instrument. We want to be able to hear you!
- **Internet Issues:** If you take lessons online and are encountering internet difficulties, please let us know 24 hours in advance, if possible. If you experience internet or computer issues right before or during the lesson, we will instead encourage the student to record the material that was prepared for the lesson (video is preferable) and email it to us once the internet is restored (preferably within 48 hours of the scheduled lesson time). We will then listen to the recordings and provide feedback for your child in place of the lesson missed due to technical difficulty. If you decide against submitting recordings, the lesson fee will still be charged for that lesson.

Pausing Lessons: Students are free to take a break from lessons during the summer semester (June-August). However, pausing lessons during the academic year (September-May) forfeits their spot in the studio, and their lesson time will be given to someone on the waitlist. If there is a special circumstance where you need to miss an entire month, payment for the month of absence may be made in advance to reserve the spot on the schedule.

Recitals: There will be a student recital at the end of the academic year, and occasionally a fall semester performance as well. All students are expected to participate in the spring recital. Playing in a recital is a great opportunity to gain experience performing for others, and is an enjoyable time for students, family, and friends who attend. We want you to be proud of your progress and share that gift with others! All recital fees and accompanist fees are included in the tuition price, so participation is at no extra cost to you!

Ensemble and Community Involvement: Students are strongly encouraged to participate in local music programs, such as the youth symphony and summer camps. These opportunities enhance student learning and provide extra motivation. Practicing alone is wonderful, but playing with a group is an entirely different experience! We believe strongly in the importance of community. Discuss options with us in your lessons.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions or concerns! We look forward to working with you!