

# **Private Lesson Handbook (2024-2025)**

*Kent Hickey, Instructor*

## **Overview**

Hello, and thank you for your interest in private lessons for your student! Private lessons are without a doubt the best and fastest way for young musicians to improve their playing. Below you will find details for the cost of lessons, payment options, studio policies, and the benefits of taking private lessons. When considering the options that will fit your student best, remember that consistent guidance and accountability are important for steady growth and improvement.

## **Cost**

I offer several different lesson packages based on the number of weeks in the academic semester. The price of lessons is determined by the current market rate of other local teachers, my education/experience level, weekly lesson preparation outside of lessons, my individualized approach to teaching each student, and materials/travel expenses. If the cost of lessons poses any kind of economic hardship for you, please contact me and we may still be able to work something out.

Please indicate below which lesson package you would like to proceed with for the semester.

\_\_\_ **14-week, 30-mins Plan** – \$420 (\$30/lesson)

\_\_\_ **14-week, 1 hr. Plan** – \$840 (\$60/lesson)

\_\_\_ **One-time/As-needed lessons, 30-mins** – \$50

\_\_\_ **One-time/As-needed lessons, 1 hr.** – \$75

**\*Once agreed upon, the above lessons are guaranteed for the student even if the instructor and/or student are unable to meet every week. (see cancellation policy)**

**Note: If you would like to extend your package beyond the scheduled number of weeks at the end of the semester, additional lessons will be prorated at the package price.**

## **Travel Fees**

If I travel to your home or location specifically for your student's lesson, there will be a \$20 upcharge for one-time lessons and a \$10 upcharge (per lesson) for any of the packages listed above.

## **Online Lessons**

Virtual lessons are a flexible option that can follow any of the lesson packages offered above. Additionally, students may choose to have a virtual lesson in place of their in-person lesson for a variety of reasons (COVID quarantine, out of town, etc.). Virtual lessons are priced the same as in-person lessons. Travel fees will be discounted accordingly if planned out at the beginning of the semester (i.e. “we would like to do 7 in-person lessons and 7 virtual lessons”) but not refunded if the switch to virtual is unplanned or last minute.

## **Recital fees**

Each semester, I organize a recital for the students in my studio to demonstrate what they have been working on throughout the course of the year and to provide invaluable performing experience. This has proven to be a great event for family and friends to track their student’s progress (and is a great opportunity for photos and videos!!). There will be an **additional \$30 registration fee** for those wishing to participate. This will cover the extra work it takes to put something like this together, programs, and some food/refreshments after the recital. Further information concerning scheduling and other details will be sent out closer to the date of the recital. There will be one recital in the Fall and another in the Spring.

**Note: The recital registration fee is in addition to, not in place of, any piano accompaniment or band fees that are due to the pianist/band on or before the day of the performance.**

## **Payment**

Payments for lessons can be made once at the beginning of the semester (preferred), twice per semester, or monthly depending on your preference. More than three unpaid lessons will result in lessons being halted until the balance is paid. Payments can be made via cash, check (made out to Kent Hickey), Venmo (@kent\_hickey), PayPal (kent.hickey1@gmail.com), or Zelle (317-679-9208). Please indicate your preferred payment schedule and method below.

*(select 1)*

- By Semester**
- Twice Per Semester**
- Monthly**

*(select 1)*

- Check**
- Cash**
- PayPal**
- Venmo**
- Zelle**

## **Scheduling**

Lessons will typically take place at the same time and location each week unless a scheduling adjustment has been made by either the instructor or the student. Lessons for the following week will be confirmed at the end of each lesson, and abnormal lesson times will usually be confirmed by the instructor in the days leading up to the lesson.

## **Notable Dates**

**Spring Recital** – Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (time TBD)

**Summer Trumpet Day** – To Be Announced

## **Benefits of Taking Lessons**

Private lessons are without a doubt the best way for young musicians to improve their technique and musicianship on their instrument. The one-on-one instruction that is attained through having a private teacher will almost definitely supersede any group instruction that a band director might be able to offer, as lessons are individually tailored to the needs of each student. Students who take private lessons tend to find success in academic and extracurricular musical settings. Lessons are especially critical for beginning students to ensure the development of good fundamentals that the student can build on as they progress. In addition to musical and technical achievement, lessons can also lead to a greater sense of confidence and identity and serve as an avenue for self-expression.

## **Policies**

### **Cancellation Policy**

I maintain a 24-hour cancellation policy to protect you and me. If the parent/student cancels or cannot make the agreed upon lesson time within 24-hours of the scheduled time, payment will still be due as if the lesson took place. If the instructor cancels in the same way, a make-up lesson will be issued and the prior payment will be applied. This policy is put in place to avoid unnecessary time and energy being wasted by both parties.

**\*Exceptions will be considered in case of sickness, family emergencies, weather, car troubles, etc. A doctor's note must be presented in case of sickness.**

### **Preparation Policy**

Students are expected to prepare the material they are assigned for each lesson to the best of their ability. A recommended amount of practice time will be determined by the student and instructor at the beginning of the term. If the student comes to a lesson unprepared, they risk the chance of being dismissed from the lesson and payment will still be due as if the lesson took place. This policy is put in place to avoid unnecessary time and energy being wasted by both

parties. Practice is essential to improving at any instrument or skill, and if the student aims to get the full benefit out of lessons, they must complete their assignments.

**\*The amount of practice time will account for age, experience level, free time outside of extra-curricular/school obligations, etc. Assignments will be reasonable and appropriate for each student.**

## **Miscellaneous**

Throughout your journey as the parent of a young trumpeter, you may begin to seek out new instruments, books, accessories, etc. to aid your student's progress (trumpet stands, metronomes, tuners, music stands, valve guards, etc.). I am always happy to help with suggestions for these types of things (especially around Christmas time!) – just contact me through text or email. If it is time for your student to purchase a new instrument (transitioning from middle school to high school/late high school to college), then I would love to offer suggestions or refer you to some trusted friends at local music stores.

## **Instructor Bio**

Kent Hickey is an in-demand trumpet player and educator in the Indianapolis area. Kent completed his bachelor's degree in music at Butler University in 2019 and subsequently received his master's degree from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in 2022. For the past nine years, Kent has taught players of all ages and has a passion for helping students find and cultivate their love for music. He currently teaches lessons at several middle schools and high schools in the area as well as jazz trumpet lessons (adjunct) at Butler University and the University of Indianapolis. In addition to teaching privately, Kent is also the lead teacher and Outreach Liaison for the Butler Youth Jazz Program. Currently, Kent freelances in and around Indianapolis and leads several of his own musical projects. He is comfortable playing and teaching many different musical styles from jazz to classical and everything in between. Professionally, Kent performed on board Royal Caribbean cruise ships over the Summers of 2018 and 2019. Future aspirations include further teaching at the university level, continuing to freelance professionally, and releasing recordings of original compositions and arrangements.

## **Instructor Contact Information**

**Email:** [kent.hickey1@gmail.com](mailto:kent.hickey1@gmail.com) (preferred)

**Phone:** (317) 679-9208 (text or call)

