



## Private Lesson Studio Policy: Molly Tucker

### **Intro, Teaching Philosophy, and Goals:**

I am excited to meet you and work with you! I love to play classical violin, viola, and fiddle and look forward to sharing that love with you. In my studio, I like to find workable goals together that we can work towards over the course of our time together. I believe in developing technique that will allow playing to be comfortable and pain-free for as long as you want to play and working through repertoire that develops your skills while speaking to your passions. I love to ask questions, get your opinion, and work through problems together - all of these things are the most fun when you spend time at home creating your own relationship with your instrument and music.

### **Required Materials:**

- Instrument (with shoulder rest and rosin in your case)
- Music books
- A notebook where I or your parent can write your practice tasks for the week
- A device to make recordings (fiddle student specific)
- Mask (see Health and Safety note at the bottom)

### **Syllabus:**

Lessons will consist of scales, technique, and repertoire. We will work together to find a combination of these elements that is best for the goals you have set. I am including separate information for both classical and fiddle students, but am very happy to combine these if a student is interested in learning both styles.

Classical violin/viola: I like to use the Suzuki books for repertoire with the addition of scales and etudes to build up technique. We can also build repertoire based on your particular goals. I like to start with a focus on learning by ear, but believe that learning to read/focusing on sight reading is an important part of learning to play as well.

Fiddle: I mainly teach fiddle tunes by ear, working to build up a repertoire of tunes that speaks to your particular genre interests and technical goals. I teach New England, Celtic, Old Time, and Québécois tunes. I also teach chords, scales, harmony, and improvisation alongside the teaching of tunes.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

- **Practicing:** It is important to practice every day. Practicing a little bit every day is better than practicing a lot just on one day, as this will help you develop good habits over time. We will work to find an amount of daily practice time that is right for you.
- **Listening/Recordings:** Listening is a huge part of learning. For fiddle students, I will provide recordings in the lesson for use to review in practice throughout the week. For classical students, listening is a part of practicing; students working through Suzuki books are required to listen to the CD of the book they are working on, and students learning other repertoire should listen to recordings as provided.
- **Recitals:** There will be two studio recitals per year that students are required to attend. Recitals are an opportunity to share with everyone what you have learned and get to hear what other

students have been working on. We will choose a piece together to play for the recital at least a month in advance. I generally expect recital pieces to be memorized, though I make exceptions on a case by case basis.

### **Recommendations for Parents:**

I like parents to be involved and understand what their child is working on in order to support their development. I require parents to be present in the lesson for Suzuki students, but know that it is not always possible for parents to be present in all student lessons. If you are unable to be in your child's lesson, please look over the notes in the notebook with them, be able to support them in their practice session, and help them come up with questions if something is not clear.

### **To Get in Contact:**

Feel free to contact me via email if you have any questions specific to you or your child's learning. My email is [m2cker@gmail.com](mailto:m2cker@gmail.com) and I will do my best to respond within 1-2 business days.

**How to report a student absence:** Please contact the WCMS main office by calling 781-721-2950 – you may leave a message at any time and the message will be date & time stamped. You may also email the school at [wcms@winchestermusic.org](mailto:wcms@winchestermusic.org) Absences reported 24 hours in advance of the lesson time are considered an excused absence. Less than 24 hours in advance are unexcused absences.

**WCMS Make up Policy:** One excused absence from private lessons will be made up (per semester) if a student has a prior commitment that conflicts with a scheduled lesson. A student absence must be reported to the WCMS office 24 hours in advance to be considered an excused absence. There are no make-ups for classes or ensembles missed by the student. All lessons, classes and workshops missed because of teacher absence or school closing will be made up. Make-up lessons may be given during or between semesters. Make-up lessons missed by a student for any reason will not be rescheduled or refunded.

**Health and Safety:** For updates about the WCMS response to COVID-19, please refer to the COVID-19 page of our website (<https://www.winchestermusic.org/covid-19-information>)

I am an actively performing and traveling musician in addition to teaching, thus it is critical that I stay in as best health as possible - both for my career and for my ability to show up for you! At this point in time, I require masking for my students for the duration of the lesson and I will be masked for the lesson. Thank you for your understanding!