

Ben Opp, Bassoon and Saxophone
ben@benjaminopp.com

Welcome!

I am excited to have the chance to work with you as a bassoon or saxophone student! This document is intended to communicate my expectations of you as a student, and what you can expect from me as your teacher. If you have any questions or concerns about anything you read here, don't hesitate to contact me!

Expectations and Policies

Practicing

- I expect you to practice 6-7 days per week. We will decide together how long your sessions should be.
- Personal practice time is the single most crucial element to your success as a musician. Your school teachers give you daily homework assignments to help you practice and reinforce the material they taught you in class - practicing is your musical homework. If you do not practice consistently, you will not improve.
- A major part of my job is teaching you how to teach yourself - that is, teaching you to practice. Practice technique will be a major component of lesson curriculum. Should you ever need assistance in knowing how to practice, please ask!

Communication

- I am *always* excited to talk to you about any aspect of lessons – never hesitate to call or e-mail with any questions or concerns that you have.

Fees

- My standard rates are \$30.00 / half hour and \$60.00 / hour.
- To keep things simple, I ask that you pay for lessons monthly. I will send you an invoice **by email** each month, for the number of lessons we have agreed to have in that month. **Payment is due at the first lesson of the month.**
- You can pay by cash, personal check, or electronically by PayPal. If you pay via PayPal, I will ask you to add 3% to cover PayPal's fees.

Attendance and Cancellations

- If you cancel a lesson in advance, I will attempt to make up the lesson, or credit the lesson to your next invoice. If you do not notify me in advance, the lesson fee will not be refunded.
 - If you have a morning lesson, you need to cancel by 10 PM the previous day.
 - If you have an afternoon or evening lesson, you need to cancel by 10 AM the same day.
- I will extend the same courtesy to you, and will notify you at least 24 hours in advance if I must cancel.
- If you will be late to a lesson, call me immediately, and I will be as accommodating as possible. However, my schedule typically will not allow me to make up the missed time.

Required Materials

- Instrument and reeds in good, working condition
- Tuner and Metronome
- Etudes, studies, solo repertoire, scale books, etc. as assigned
- For bassoon students: reed tools, as necessary

Final Thoughts

I can't say this enough times – I would love to talk to you at any time about any questions or concerns you have about lessons!

You will get the most out of your time with me if you are **curious**. Ask questions and be excited about music and your instrument – it will give back to you in the same quantity you give to it!