

Studio Contract for Mandy Dennis's Students

Enrollment: After a trial lesson and meeting with the parent(s) (if under 18), students will be accepted demonstrating the inspiration, attention, diligence, and motivation to play the cello.

Expectations and Regulations:

+**PREPARATION!!!!** The student is first and foremost expected to come to lessons prepared and ready to play. This does not mean concert level, but your goal should be to aspire improvement every week. In the event that the student is not prepared, the student should be able to explain why. Preparation and practice is very important to the musical learning process and demonstrates student's sense of responsibility and commitment to the cello while showing respect to all people including student, parent, and teacher. Parents should encourage and help this process of learning by ensuring that there is uninterrupted space and quiet practice time for the student, occasionally checking assignments and listening to their child.

+Each student is expected to have a lesson **every week!** In the event there is a conflict with the student's regular time, please notify me 24 hours in advance and the lesson should be rescheduled when it is cancelled.

+The **willingness** to try new things.

+The **understanding of differences** of opinion and **appreciation** of these opinions.

+The ability to be **respectful** of music, cello, and other musicians including fellow students, as well as the ability to display **patience** with themselves and their work.

+The **confidence** to believe that each voice, (musical and aural) is important.

+The student must come to every lesson with the proper materials such as music, and a functioning instrument. If the instrument is for some reason in need of repair, I can recommend and give names and numbers for repair shops and instrument dealers/rentals.

Performances:

+The student is expected to attend **three** performance classes each school semester and summer. These classes will be announced at the beginning of each semester. These classes are important! It allows the student to get feedback from other students, and showcases their hard work! There will be no charge for performance classes, and they will all be at the Midwest Young Artists center. A pianist will be provided at no additional costs for the studio performance classes.

+The student will receive the **studio concert day dates** at the beginning of every semester and summer. There will be one concert at the end of each semester and summer. Parents/students must use the studio pianist or find another pianist for these recitals. There is a fee for the studio pianists at concerts and extra rehearsals.

Fees:

Evanston:

\$25-half hour

\$50-one hour

Midwest Young Artists Center:

\$25-half hour

\$50-one hour

In Your Home:

\$35-half hour
\$60-one hour

+All lessons must be paid for one month in advance. Each student is expected to have a lesson **every week!** If for some reason there is a conflict with the student's regular time, I must know about it 24 hours in advance and the lesson should be rescheduled when it is cancelled. There are no refunds for lessons not cancelled after the 24 hour time has gone by. I will also give each student and parent 24 hour notice at the minimum if their lesson should be moved due to a concert/musical engagement of mine.

Conclusion:

Music is supposed to be FUN, though it requires diligent and hard, thoughtful work. If in any case a student is suffering from the "BORED" sickness with their cello, that is considered normal. If the "bored sickness" becomes a terminal illness, then no one is benefiting. Not the student, parents, or the teacher. There are many ways to approach the cello, and your teacher is open-minded to experimentation and is for good, supportive arguments as to why you chose this particular approach. Fun-ness comes when nature calls for it, and nature calls for music frequently. SO, good luck and happy practicing!

I have read and agree to the above policies.

Student _____ Date __/__/__

Parent _____ Date __/__/__

Pledge from Mandy Dennis

I pledge to give you, the student and inquirer the best musical experience to the best of my abilities. I will give you my up-most attention and respect. I understand that playing the cello is not easy all the time, and can be frustrating. In that understanding, I will always try my best to make getting around your cello easier and more efficient. I will try to inspire you, and encourage your musical voice to sing. If I don't understand what you are saying, I will always ask you what you mean. If you don't understand, I pledge to never judge or be critical of the miss-understanding and trust that you will tell me if you don't. Sometimes, it just takes a while to grasp new concepts. The cello can be a journey that you never thought you would never go on, physically, mentally, and emotionally. That is how life is for me, a journey that travels through all abrasions, kindness, and cruelty. I vow to strengthen the bond between your cello and you, which I believe in time will strengthen your purpose in life where-ever you are or with what-ever you are doing.