

## Alli Gessner Oboe Studio: New Student Contract 2021-2022

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Welcome to my studio! I believe that anyone can learn to play oboe, and that playing oboe does not have to be a struggle. My personal challenges playing oboe inform my teaching technique, and with diligence I know that we can bring out your inner musician.

**PARENTS:** Please read the Policy document below, and complete the New Student Information form here: <https://forms.gle/PtMR7BRKBqgzJLRL8>

### Required Materials

- An instrument in working condition
- 2-3 working reeds at all times
- A reed case (NOT the container reeds come in)
- A small reed-soaking container (old, cleaned Rx container; shot glass)
- Cork grease
- A silk pull-through swab
- A music stand (at home)
- A metronome and tuner (app or Korg product)
- A practice notebook - this will come to every lesson
- Method books and other music as assigned - student responsible for obtaining books/music

### What I expect from you

- Students are expected to respect and save our weekly lesson time for consistent weekly lessons.
- Lessons are meant to be a tool for personal improvement in music and on the oboe.
- Every student is **required** to practice at home. Progress during lessons is dependent on the amount of time spent practicing at home.
  - Beginner students (>2 years): practice 3-5 days a week for at least 30 minutes
  - Intermediate students (2-3 years): practice 4-5 days a week for at least 45 minutes
  - Advanced students (3+ years) practice 4-6 days a week for at least 45 minutes
  - Reed-making requires additional practice time separate from playing.
- I do not expect perfection, but I do expect the student to put consistent effort into practicing and improvement. In extreme circumstances, if the student is not sufficiently prepared for the lesson, I maintain the right to end the lesson at whatever point I see fit.
- If there are too many weeks of unprepared lessons and excuses, student/parent/Ms. Alli will reevaluate to see if lessons are a priority and beneficial to the student.
- Students taking online lessons are required to submit recorded homework prior to their scheduled lesson.

### What you can expect from me

- I will respect and save our lesson time each week for consistent weekly lessons.
- Since I am a freelance musician and make my living performing, there may be times when I need to reschedule lessons to accommodate rehearsals or performances.
- My teaching style focuses on music fundamentals, strong technical skills, musical and creative expression, self-discipline, and confidence. You can expect me to give my full energy in every lesson in order to help you learn and improve as a musician.
- Students and parents are welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns at any point.

## Rate and Location

- \$72.50/hour, pro-rated for 45-minute lessons. Discounts available for full- and half-semester payment.
- When I have decided that it's safe to resume in-person lessons, they will be offered only to fully vaccinated students who have submitted a photo of their vaccination card and have no symptoms of respiratory illness (fever, cough, sneeze, runny nose).
- ***If a student is eligible for in person lessons but has symptoms of respiratory illness (fever, cough, sneeze, runny nose), their lesson will take place online rather than in person. Text Ms. Alli ASAP.***
- Online lessons will occur on Rock Out Loud Live. <https://rockoutloud.live/join/gessneroboe>
- In person lessons will take place at Ms. Alli's home: **3993 Starview Dr. #1, San Jose 95124**

## Payment Guidelines

- I accept payment in the form of cash, personal check made out to me "Alli Gessner", Zelle QuickPay to [agessner.oboe@gmail.com](mailto:agessner.oboe@gmail.com), Venmo to @Alli-Gessner , and PayPal.me: [www.paypal.me/oboealli](http://www.paypal.me/oboealli).
- Advance payment for the billing term is expected at the first lesson of that term as specified on the invoice. Payment for summer lessons is expected at each lesson or the beginning of the month of lessons.
- Invoices will be sent **in advance of the due date by email** to one individual via Intuit Quickbooks.
- Each semester will consist of 17 lessons. All lesson dates will be listed on your invoice.

## Cancellations and Make-up Lessons

- Please notify me well in advance of any cancellation for any reason.
- Families who request monthly payments may cancel any lesson listed on the invoice before paying and have the fee for that lesson removed from the invoice. **These families are not guaranteed make-up lessons for parent/student cancellation.**
- Families who pay in full or half-semester increments **are guaranteed 1 make up lesson per semester for student/parent cancellation.**
- **Make-up lesson policy:**
  - It is the family's responsibility to request to schedule a make-up lesson. Please check my Calendar: <http://bit.ly/GessnerOboeLessons> for OPEN times and then email to request a make-up lesson. I will schedule make-up lessons based upon my availability and discretion.
  - Lessons **cancelled by myself are guaranteed** a make-up lesson.
  - All make-up lessons must be scheduled within 4 weeks of the missed lesson.
  - Make-up lessons will not be rolled over from one semester to the next or into the summer.
  - Make-up lessons are not granted for no-shows.
  - Once a make-up lesson is scheduled, it cannot be rescheduled again.
- There will be absolutely no refunds if a student misses a lesson, regardless of the situation.
- Should you need to **permanently change your lesson time**, notify me no less than three weeks before the change needs to take effect. Failure to give me sufficient notice before changing a lesson time will result in lessons being missed without credit, refund or make-up.

## Recital

- A studio recital will be given in the fall and spring semesters. Participation is EXPECTED of all non-adult students.
- Alli will hire an accompanist. Students are expected to schedule rehearsals with and pay the accompanist directly.
- The participation fee is approximately \$25-50 to cover venue costs, and does not include accompaniment fee.

## Lesson Termination

- Should a student wish to discontinue lessons, **I must be notified four weeks before your last lesson.** I believe that communication is crucial to a positive learning environment, and am willing to adapt my teaching methods to best suit your needs. By giving four weeks notice, it is understood that you will also pay for the last four lessons whether you take them or not.

## Referral Bonus

- Every time you refer a new student and that student completes their 3 initial lessons, you get a free lesson.
  - This lesson may be in addition to your regular schedule, split between normal lessons to add time each week, or credited to your monthly invoice (available to monthly payees only).
  - There is no limit to referral bonuses.
  - This works for family members, such as siblings, cousins etc.

## Online Lessons

- Online lessons will continue to be available to all students at their scheduled lesson time. Please let Ms. Alli know ASAP if you'd like to switch to an online lesson.
- Online lessons will take place via Rock Out Loud Live.  
<https://rockoutloud.live/join/gessneroboe>

## Lesson Dates for the year:

The year is broken up into two 17-week Semesters. Please put the following dates on your calendar. Finalized Recital dates will be announced 2.5-3 months in advance of the recital.

### Fall Semester

**Tuesday:** 8/24, 8/31, 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 1/11, 1/18

**Wednesday:** 8/25, 9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 1/12, 1/19

**Thursday:** 8/26, 9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 12/2, 12/9, 1/13, 1/20

**Fall Recital:** Early December, Exact date TBD

**Spring Semester**

**Tuesday:** 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24, 5/31

**Wednesday:** 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 5/25, 6/1

**Thursday:** 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2

**Youth Orchestra Audition Prep Performance:** Last week of March, exact date TBD

**Spring Recital:** First week of May, exact date TBD