



East Kootenay Music Teachers' Association

General Policy

Revised August 2006

The East Kootenay Music Teachers' Association (EKMTA) was formed in 1981. Its main goals are to increase the opportunities for education, service, and musical enjoyment among teachers, students, their families, and the general public. The EKMTA promotes the study, performance and appreciation of music as an integral part of a well-rounded lifestyle.

Our Mission Statement:

The Mission of the EKMTA is to provide quality musical instruction and to enhance the musical enjoyment, education and personal growth of our students and teachers in a positive, professional, supportive and interactive environment.

EKMTA Members:

- have many years of experience in the field of music.
- understand the larger picture of music education as well as the requirements of each instrument or theory subject.
- care about both the musical development and the general well-being of their students.
- will build a course of study to suit the needs and abilities of each student, within a recognized training program or otherwise as appropriate.
- will give valuable advice in the setting of practice schedules, recital and concert attendance, performance and/or exam preparation, and other activities which enhance the student's musical growth.
- are dedicated professionals running home-based businesses.
- are active in the East Kootenay arts community, a vibrant cultural sector which creates economic benefits in service, tourism, and other industries.
- believe private music instruction works best as a partnership between teacher, student and parent.

Lesson Fees and Payment

The calendar year includes ____ lessons.
The fee is by agreement with the teacher according to the length of lesson and grade level.
Payment is by post-dated cheques from September to May or in agreement with the teacher.

Music Purchase & Other Costs

The purchase of music, exam and festival fees, is separate from lesson fees. If music is purchased from the teacher, the cost should be reimbursed promptly. To ensure quality music education it is important to purchase additional books to supplement the regular RCM, Conservatory Canada or other graded books.

Photocopying of any music is illegal and is not sanctioned by the EKMTA.

Cancellation of Lessons

To cancel a lesson and in order to have a make-up lesson arranged, a minimum of 24 hours notice must be given, unless it is due to illness or an emergency. Regular attendance is important so that consistent practicing habits and progress are maintained.

It is expected that students registering for lessons in September are committed for the entire school year of instruction. A student's enthusiasm may fluctuate; steady support and communication are needed to help the student through times when interest wavers. Should your child express a wish to quit, please notify the teacher immediately and allow at least 4 weeks before making a decision. Then all involved can examine the situation and see what changes can be made. In the event of a final decision to quit, the teacher can ensure pleasant memories of the last few lessons and take steps to fill the vacancy.

EKMTA Toonie Fund

This fund consists of \$2 per student collected by the teacher at the beginning of each year. The purpose of the fund is to help maintain student access to public performances, including but not limited to piano maintenance, concert hall rentals, touring performers fee and EKMTA student activities.

EKMTA Permission Forms

Parents are asked to please sign a consent form at the beginning of each year which will be provided by the teacher. This form will state your acceptance or denial of the release of your child(s) name and/or photo in media publications by the EKMTA.

Concert Attendance

It is extremely important that students attend concerts such as those featured by the Symphonie of the Kootenays and visiting professional musicians and clinicians. As there are not many opportunities for students to see professionals perform, attending concerts is a vital part of a well-rounded, quality music education. Concert attendance opens up a whole new world and students should understand that music is more than just lessons, practicing, festivals and exams.

Student Recitals

Recitals are a vital part of a student's musical education and participation in recitals is important. Students and parents will be notified by the teacher of recitals. The number of recitals to be attended/performed at is in agreement with the teacher.

Parent Involvement

This is a yearly commitment. We encourage parent involvement and look forward to seeing you at a lesson once a month or as arranged with the teacher. Please read weekly practice assignments after every lesson. If there are problems or concerns, please call the teacher as soon as possible. Please support a good environment for learning and good practice habits by: providing a quiet but inviting practice area and an instrument which is in good tune and repair, encouraging and supporting a regular practice time, communicating with the teacher, and by listening to and giving positive encouragement during all stages of learning.

How can parents support their young musicians?

Composer Murray Adaskin speaks with joy of his early violin studies. "My father would come home after a hard day's work - and there I'd be, sawing away on my fiddle. No matter what I was attempting or how bad it sounded he would always say, 'that sounds wonderful. Play it again!'"

Louise Rose had an aunt who came over each day after school and sat in a rocking chair, knitting while Louise practiced. All she ever said was "Play on child." So important was that quiet support that Louise did play on - all the way to worldwide fame as a jazz pianist and singer.

Murray and Louise believe to this day that all parents, musical or not, can do a lot to motivate their children by just listening and encouraging them.