

Master's Hands String Studio



Policies & Procedures 2025-2026



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Studio Overview

Welcome to the MHSS Family!

Master's Hands String Studio is a private lesson studio located in the southwestern Minnetonka/Chanhassen area. Lessons are weekly, in a one-on-one, in-person setting and available on all bowed strings (violin, viola, 'cello and bass) as well as piano. At MHSS, musicians of all ages and abilities enjoy learning their instrument in a fun-filled environment that maintains high expectations for proper technique and pedagogy, while ensuring personalized attention to each student's individual learning style and musicianship goals.

~Lessons are held weekly in the studio, and are available in 30, 45 & 60-minute lengths depending on student need and teacher recommendation.

~School-Year Term runs September-May; Summer Term mid-June through mid-August. Enroll all year long! :)





Tuition Charges & Late Fees

Tuition is \$40 weekly for a 30-minute lesson, \$60 for a 45-minute and \$80 for 60-minutes. **Monthly tuition payments are due at/before the first scheduled lesson of each month.** The [MHSS Calendar](#) provides the monthly totals for each lesson day. *Please note~ tuition is still due even if your musician is absent from that lesson.* A \$10 per family-musician late fee will be assessed if monthly tuition is not received by the first lesson of the month. If tuition remains unpaid by the second lesson, a late fee equal to half of the family's weekly tuition rate will be added. If tuition remains unpaid by the third scheduled lesson of the month with no communication, a late fee equal to your family weekly rate will be added, and your enrollment at MHSS may be in jeopardy.

Please use the provided [MHSS Calendar](#) for monthly tuition due. MHSS does not send out individual monthly statements. If you have any questions regarding your musician/s' tuition, please reach out ahead of time. *Do not make adjustments to the expected tuition amount due without my approval. Doing so will result in additional processing time and a \$10 fee.*

Please communicate any concerns or troubles with tuition payments; **I do understand and will absolutely be flexible, but I do need communication. Thank you!**



MHSS accepts Venmo ("MonicaHahnMHSS"), cash and checks (made out to Monica Hahn).

MHSS does not accept credit cards, or issue refunds.





Attendance & Missed Lessons

Your lesson time is reserved especially for you, thank you for being prompt. If you are running late, that time is just lost. Thank you for also picking up on time so as to not interrupt the next lesson. Please text & let me know if you're running late.

(952-446-6888).

Missed Lessons: MHSS asks for at least 24 hours notice of any missed lesson.

At this time, MHSS is 100% booked. *Please understand that while I will do my best with eligible lessons, make-ups are not guaranteed as there is simply no extra time in the typical week.* With notice of at least 24 hours before the missed lesson, families will have access to the [MHSS CODA Calendar](#), and will be able to search and select an open time if available.

Please know that with less than 24 hours notice of a missed lesson, even for such a reason as illness, the lesson may not be made up.

If notice of a missed lesson (for any reason) is provided prior to the start of the month, tuition will be adjusted to reflect the expected attendance. Lessons missed due to school music concerts are always excused and will be given the link to reschedule via the "CODA Calendar", or tuition adjustment.

Unexcused Absences: Missed lessons without notice, or less than 2 hours notice, are considered "no-shows" and are ineligible for makeup/accommodation. *Any lesson missed or canceled lesson that occurs while monthly tuition is past due/unpaid, is ineligible for a make-up, or tuition adjustment.





Weather-Related Issues

As MHSS is a private studio and serves families from multiple districts (public, private and home), decisions regarding all cancellations will be handled in a manner to provide the best learning experience for my kids, and safest traveling to/from for my studio families. As I will personally make the decision to close the studio for in-person lessons; please look for direct communication confirmation from me.

If you ever personally feel the weather conditions are unsafe for your driving either to or home from MHSS, or your child may be too distracted/scared by severe weather (summer), please let me know. We will arrange an in-person make-up or GoogleMeet instead.

When weather closes the studio, we will move to online lessons in the GoogleMeet studio, work together for an in-person make-up, or arrange another accommodation. Cancellations will be announced directly to affected families through email, text, as well as posted on the [MHSS Website](#) and FaceBook page.





Logistics (Parking, Drop-Off, Pick-Up & Arrival)

You are welcome to park in the street out front, or the gravel portion of our driveway. Use the sidewalk or the flagstone path to the front door. Please be sensitive that MHSS does share a driveway with our neighbors, so it needs to be kept accessible to all.

****Important Note:*** I know it seems strangely more convenient as our units are actually attached, but **please DO NOT use my neighbor's driveway for any amount of time.** She is not expecting anyone, especially littles, in her driveway and I would hate for an accident to happen. *Thank you for passing this detail along to anyone who may be driving your musician.*

Please be prepared to remove shoes/boots to keep the studio floors as safe and dry as possible, please refrain from walking through the muddy yard/snow if at all possible. **Also, please be sure to take care of all bathroom needs before arrival at MHSS. There is no bathroom accessible from the studio space without entering my personal home.**

Arrival: Please plan to enter the studio no more than 2-3 minutes before your lesson start time. This allows for a few minutes to get ready to play, but doesn't cause too much disruption to the lesson finishing up before you. When you come to the door, please just come right in. No need to knock or wait, and Pip will settle down as soon as you come in. :) Quietly come in while your "lesson neighbor" is finishing up.

You're next! :)





Practice at home- Yes, PLEASE! ;)

The only way to really progress toward goals and solidify the good habits and skills critical for a musician is to practice regularly. The muscle memory necessary for musician skill development and confidence truly only occurs through regular repetition throughout the week.

The effects of practicing (or not!) are cyclical. **Regular practice leads to more confidence and enjoyment, resulting in faster progress (new skills!), which ignites motivation and enthusiasm for....more practice! :) But,** the opposite is also true. I truly believe that lack of practice, progress & thus enjoyment of the instrument is the primary reason that most students discontinue their lessons.

Practice is very personal. Practice session length and weekly amount depends on instrument, student age, skill level, musicianship goals, and busy schedules! A beginning cellist, for example, may only be able to play for a few minutes at a time at first as the fingers strengthen. This student may only practice for 5-10 minutes, but would aim to do that at least 5 days of the week. As skills develop, and we add more techniques to work on, the time needed for at-home learning ("practice") will increase as well. More advanced students will find greatest success with 30-60 minute sessions. However, a busy teen may struggle to carve out the time on a nearly daily basis, so longer sessions on 3 days per week might be a better goal. If you have any questions concerning your child's practice habits, please let me know.

Honestly, I feel practice is most definitely a "quality over quantity" situation. I would much rather see a student have practice sessions that are intentional and productive over just "checking a box" or working to a random weekly minute goal. To assist with that focus, every student will be given a **Lesson Notebook**. Notes on what was worked on during lesson, as well as the assignment and any tips to guide the at-home learning time will be written in there each for each week. Please be sure the Lesson Notebook is included with all of the things that are needed for both lesson and at-home practice. I will be sure to communicate with both student and parent if I begin to notice a downward trend in your child's preparation level for his/her lesson. We can create a plan together that works best for your child.





Lesson "Audiences"

Thank you for coming in either at the beginning or end (or both!) of your musician's lesson for a chance to chat about any 'parent-teacher' details. This time is especially important for my littles. ;)

Please know that it is usually best for kiddos to NOT have an "audience" for the whole lesson however. Students are easily distracted by a parent watching them (and some get strangely SHY!). Kids are also much more likely to retain the learning from the lesson if they don't have the option of "my Mom will remember". ;)

Weather permitting, I have outdoor seating you are welcome to use. Many parents take advantage of the nearby playground (Spring Hill Park), Purgatory Trails and the Minnetonka Library close by. Please have fun decorating my sidewalk with chalk art, or maybe building a snow-musician ;).

I completely welcome siblings waiting for their turn when they have back-to-back lessons. However, I do insist on non-movement & quiet activities for any kiddos when waiting inside so their sibling's lesson is not disrupted. All students are welcome to borrow a book from the MHSS Little Library for their reading time while in the studio.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns on this.





Studio Mascots :)

*My ridiculously needy and vocal doorbell/Pomeranian is **Pip**.

*My cat, **Wiley**, can be much less visible, but he has learned he can demand attention from these little humans coming in and out. Wiley also loves to sneak in a nap in any open cases. :)

Pip is my slightly frantic greeter who feels it his primary purpose as Studio Assistant to let me know whenever someone walks toward the door. He does this through incessant, and very non-musical, barking at a solid forte level. Please be assured that he will settle down as soon as you walk in and say hi. His biggest threat is licking you, and interrupting your lesson with either his hedgehog toy or his snoring.

Please let me know if you need accommodations due to fears or allergies.





Recitals!

I LOVE Recitals!

Recitals are a fabulous opportunity for musicians to "show off" what they've been working on and enjoy a bit of recognition for their practice efforts, outside of the Studio and your living room. :) Working up a piece to a "performance-ready" level is a more intense and detailed focus than we strive for with the weekly method book lessons, songs and scales. This provides an incredible practice motivation in the weeks leading up to the performance, and an awesome feeling of accomplishment!

Recitals are also fantastic for listening to, and supporting, other musicians. As my studio has students from ages 3 through adult; on violin, viola, cello, bass and piano.... A recital provides the chance to hear multiple instruments played by a wide variety of ages and ability levels.

Typically during Summer Term, I also love arranging performance-service opportunities, such as playing for the residents of a local elderly-care home.

Recitals are not mandatory, but highly encouraged!

Tentative Recital dates are on the MHSS Calendar. I will confirm dates/times as soon as possible.

Recitals are currently held at Liberty Baptist Church (Agape Christi Academy); 6500 Baker Rd in Eden Prairie.





Communication

Our communication is VITAL to your child's success here in my Studio. I regularly send texts and emails home, both individual and group. Sometimes, the group messages have become lost in "spam" or "junk" folders, so please be sure you have my contact information (studio email and phone number) cleared in your email programs so you don't miss any important details.

If your contact information changes, please let me know so I always have the best phone number and email for any one in your family that will be a part of this musical journey. My students are welcome to reach out to me (many text me!) throughout their week at home with questions too!

Don't ever hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns or ideas that may help me to best teach your child! When reaching out, please know that I am not typically on or looking at my phone while I have a student in the studio. I will respond as soon as I am able. Thanks!

~MHSS Address: **5130 Clear Spring Rd** (Minnetonka, 55345)

~MHSS phone number is **952-446-6888**.

Both calls and texts are great; best method for more immediate needs.

~MHSS email is **mastershandsstudio@gmail.com**.

Only checked during studio hours and when I'm not with a student, no immediate response

~MHSS website is **mastershandsstringstudio.org**.

~Master's Hands String Studio does have a **Facebook** page where I post announcements and other fun tidbits.



MHSS Coda Calendar and the Accidental List



In music, a "CODA" is typically a few measures (or sometimes an entire section!) added to the end of the piece as a finale. In Italian, CODA literally means "tail" or "a little extra at the end". Hah! :)

The **MHSS "Coda Calendar"** is available to MHSS Families via a link and is a convenient way to search through the currently-available times in the schedule. Families use this link for situations such as arranging in-person make-ups or snagging an extra lesson or two when preparing for things such as auditions, special performances or optional ensembles.



When a musician encounters an "ACCIDENTAL" in their music, they know that the symbol alters the written pitch. The adjusted pitch does not follow the Key Signature of the piece, and is only a temporary change. The **MHSS "Accidental List"** is a fabulous, flexible, scheduling option for families that are not able to commit to a set, weekly lesson at this time or are waiting for official enrollment at MHSS. "Accidental List" lessons are only temporary solutions, and are not intended as your sole means of learning time in the studio. Weekly attendance at a lesson is ideal for steady progress.

Those families on MHSS's "Accidental List" will be first given access to the MHSS CODA Calendar. Through this link, you will be able to schedule using the current availability on the MHSS schedule. Also, families on the "Accidental List" will also be contacted via text when I am made aware of additional, potentially quite last-minute, openings in the schedule. These openings occur through planned absences of fully-enrolled MHSS students (vacations, school concerts, etc) as well as lessons missed due to illness.

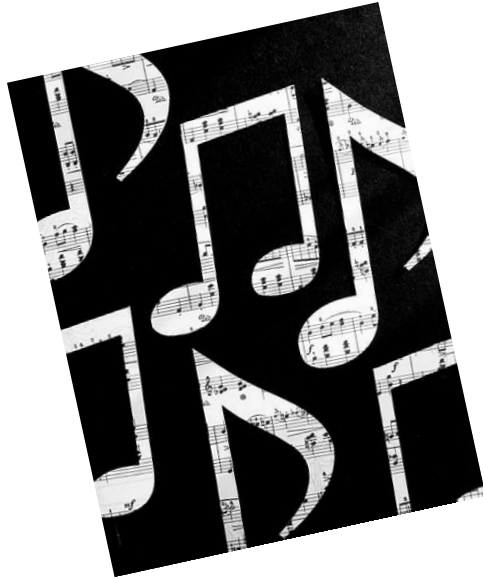
Lesson times claimed either via the CODA Calendar or text response to Accidental List announcement must be secured by immediate Venmo payment, or that time will still be available to other students.



30-minute lessons are \$40
45-minute lessons are \$60
60-minute lessons are \$80.

MHSS Venmo profile is: @MonicaHahnMHSS.





Closing Notes~



Thank you for trusting me to be your child's teacher, and for being a part of the Master's Hands String Studio family! I am SO excited to build, or continue building, a relationship with your child and family! I know we're going to have an absolutely fabulous time making music together!



I cannot wait to see what our time together will bring!

~Monica

"Praise the Lord! Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet, praise Him with the harp & lyre, praise Him with timbrel & dancing, **praise Him with the strings** and pipe, praise Him with the clash of cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." (adapted Psalm 150:1-6)