



## BETTY SMITH'S MUSIC STUDIO

913-492-0083

bsmithmusicstudio@gmail.com

<https://ksmta.org/member-page/betty-smith>

***This teacher's approach to music study seeks to develop the whole child, to help unfold his/her natural potential to learn and become a happy, responsible, and caring person. The purpose is not only to develop accomplished pianists, but to help every student find the joy that comes through music-making. Students thrive in an environment of support, developing confidence and self-esteem, the determination to try difficult things, self-discipline, concentration, a lasting enjoyment of music, and sensitivity and skill for making music.***

Playing the piano is a wonderful skill. Not only does it involve basic muscle coordination, reading ability, musicality, discipline, and diligent work, but also includes a sense of creativity, achievement, enjoyment, and appreciation for music in general. Recent research indicates that the study of piano can enhance brain development and activity, especially in young children. The following policies are designed to help make your study an enjoyable, worthwhile, and productive experience.

Lessons include solo pieces from the classics, folk tunes, jazz, sacred, and popular repertoire. A combination of private and group lessons enhance other areas such as basic theory, music history and appreciation, ensemble playing, sight-reading, improvisation, transposition, and harmonization.

A binder is provided for taking notes during the lesson and recording assignments. Parents not attending lessons should check these binders weekly for any communication from the teacher. Always feel free to ask questions if something is unclear regarding the teaching points or assignments.

Although practicing is sometimes a chore, playing the piano is a PHYSICAL skill. As such, it requires daily, steady, consistent practice for fast and efficient progress. Only in progressing does a student feel a sense of achievement and enjoyment in the musical experience. It is strongly recommended that the student practice at least 6 days a week. Dr. Suzuki says, "Only practice on the days you eat!" Quality of time is more important than quantity, but it will average 20 minutes for preschoolers (often divided into two 10-minute sessions), 30 minutes for elementary and 45 minutes or more for junior high and up. This time should be scheduled as part of the day's activities, and become a habit not to be broken.

Opportunities are scheduled throughout the school year for students to play for others during group lessons, in recitals (two per school year), in auditions sponsored by music teacher organizations, and other events as announced. Participation is encouraged, but never forced. Most auditions are non-competitive in nature, and intended to be motivational in intent.

Tuition is due in advance, and should be received by the **first** day of each month. Payments received after the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month will be considered late, and a \$15 late fee will be assessed. Payments received after the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month will require a \$25 late fee. Returned checks will result in a \$25 service charge. No refunds will be given at any time. If no payment is received by the 20<sup>th</sup>, lessons will be discontinued until payment and late fee are received in full. If payment is a problem at any time, please contact me *before* your payment is late. Email tuition reminders will be sent if your payment is not received by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. You may pay at your last lesson of the month, drop off the check at the studio during teaching hours, or mail your check. When leaving the program of study, a 30-day written notice is required with the tuition payment for those 30 days of lessons. Thank you for this courtesy. Tuition is based on 38 lessons (31 private and 7 group) from June to May, and divided into 12 equal payments for convenience. Tuition is as follows:

30 minute lessons: 12 payments of \$ 98  
45 minute lessons: 12 payments of \$147  
60 minute lessons: 12 payments of \$196  
75 minute lessons: 12 payments of \$ 245  
90 minute lessons: 12 payments of \$ 294

A \$25 non-refundable enrollment fee per child is to be included with the registration form each year. Studio enrollment is open March 12-April 20 to current students, and available slots will be offered to students on the waiting list in May. Students who begin later in the yearly calendar will be given a pro-rated monthly payment amount based on the number of lessons they will receive from their start day to the end of May.

The studio has a “**no make-up lesson**” policy. If a student misses a lesson for any reason, the time will be used by the teacher for lesson/group, recital, and audition planning or administrative duties pertaining to the studio and the student’s benefit. If you miss a lesson, your lesson time is forfeited for that week, and payment will be expected. Your lesson time has been “sold” to you, and cannot be “resold” because you are absent. If you know about your absence in advance, you may take advantage of the SWAPS list and swap your lesson time with another student. Student contact information will be included on a “SWAPS” list to be shared with other students who have signed up to SWAP. If you need to miss a lesson, you should contact a student on the list and “swap” your lesson times for that week. Please note the lesson length of each student involved – they may be different! You are responsible for arranging the SWAP with the other student and **texting** or **emailing** me the information of what you have arranged. A form will be provided for inclusion on the SWAPS list, or is available on the studio webpage. This system has worked extremely well and keeps students from having to forfeit lessons. Also, if students take more than 6 summer lessons, the extra lessons can be counted toward the total 38 lessons if a student needs to miss during the school year, thus not needing to “forfeit” a lesson that was included in the tuition payments. Your courtesy in informing me of an upcoming absence or cancellation is greatly appreciated. Please keep in mind that your tuition includes many things other than your specific weekly time; it is not solely based on the amount of lesson time, but includes teacher time for lesson planning, communication, selecting music, recitals, auditions, etc, as well as recital fees and binder costs. No refunds for missed lessons will be given at any time.

If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, or comments, please call, text, or email me. Open communication is essential to a positive musical experience.

#### INFORMATION ABOUT BETTY TODD SMITH

Betty Todd Smith began her study of piano at the age of 8. Her teachers include Adah Coe, Rosalie Talbot, Miriam Spindler-Lynch, Dr. Ron Rathbun, and Eugene Pridonoff. She presented yearly solo recitals during her college years, and holds the Bachelor of Arts in Piano Performance from Abilene Christian University, and the Master of Music in Piano Performance from Arizona State University. Betty taught class piano at Arizona State University and Tulsa Junior College. She founded and directed the piano and preschool music programs for Tulsa Institute for Music Education, Inc., a school based on the Suzuki philosophy of teaching music and offering instruction in piano, violin, cello, flute, guitar, fiddle, and preschool music. Betty provided the music program for Undercroft Montessori School in Tulsa, OK for 8 years, and has taught piano and Musikgarten at Agape Montessori, Small Beginnings, and Pembroke Hill in the Kansas City area. She is active in Suzuki and traditional piano instruction, and has obtained Suzuki training through all piano levels at various institutes in the United States and Canada. She is a Permanent Nationally-Certified member of the Music Teachers’ National Association, 1<sup>st</sup> District President for Kansas Music Teachers’ Association, and an active member of Kansas City Music Teachers Association. She serves as area Chairman for the National Piano Guild; and adjudicates piano auditions throughout the US for various organizations. She is active in ensemble performances, lectures, master classes, and workshops for teachers. Betty has trained in Kindermusik, Musikgarten, Music Mind Games, and has obtained a copyright for an innovative music curriculum designed to teach young children rhythmic concepts based on Montessori principles. Betty also works with Merriean Melodies as an editor, consultant, and writer.

#### THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER from *Dr. Shinichi Suzuki*

*“Music is the language of the heart without words.”*

*“Art develops a beautiful heart in a person.”*

*“Every child can learn. Any child can be developed—  
Depends on how you do it.”*

*“Beautiful tone – Beautiful heart.”*

BETTY SMITH'S MUSIC STUDIO  
**PIANO REGISTRATION FORM – 2020/2021**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade (2020-2021) \_\_\_\_\_ Age (as of June 1, 2020) \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years in Piano Lessons: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address, city, zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

(cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PIANO LESSONS 2020-2021:**

\_\_\_\_ 30 min    \_\_\_\_ 45 min    \_\_\_\_ 60 min    \_\_\_\_ 75 min    \_\_\_\_ 90 min  
(Day/time preference during school year: \_\_\_\_\_)

**SUMMER PRIVATE LESSONS 2020:**

(6 Summer Lessons are included in your yearly tuition)

Weeks requested:	_____ June 22-26	_____ July 20-24
	_____ June 29-July 3	_____ July 27-31
	_____ July 6-10	_____ August 3-7
	_____ July 13-17	_____ August 10-14

Day of the week/am or pm preference: \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Refundable Registration fee of \$25 per student must be included with this registration form.**

12 tuition payments are due by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month from June 2019 through May 2020. Payments received after the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month must include a \$15 late fee. Payments received after the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month must include a \$25 late fee. Payments may also be made quarterly, by semester, or for the total year. Payments are accepted in the form of cash or check (payable to "Betty Smith"), or may be mailed directly from your bank to Betty Smith.

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Parent Signature

Date