



## GOALS AND POLICIES

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<http://www.simplymusicpiano.com>

*New - acoustically designed studio opening at Wal Wal Easter 2017*

The fundamental goal of Simply Music is to maximize the likelihood of students acquiring and retaining music as a lifelong companion.

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The students

1. Experience playing as a natural self-expression;
2. Play a vast repertoire covering a broad array of musical styles and genres
3. Develop the ability to self-generate i.e. the ability to progress independently .This includes music reading, writing, composition, improvisation, arrangement, structure and theory etc.
4. Have a highly self-affirming experience.

Achieving these results requires an **above-average commitment** from students, teachers and parents. Retaining music as a life-long companion for beginners takes several years. Three months is enough time to begin experiencing how well Simply Music supports this goal.

### Commitments

I (the teacher) promise to

1. be timely
2. Conduct myself in a professional and courteous manner
3. Always do my best to create and maintain a fun and productive environment for learning, and
4. be responsive and helpful

Students also make commitments – this document is intended to explain them. Your agreement/compliance with the policies will be signed early in the new year.

**This is a REQUIREMENT BASED STUDIO as opposed to a 'request-based'.**

The following points are *requirements* of our student/teacher relationship.

**Home Practice:** Students maintain a schedule of regular and consistent practice throughout each week. 15-25 mins per day, 5-6 days per week, at the same time of day, including practicing newly assigned material later on in the *day of the lesson itself* to reinforce what has been learnt.

Lesson content needs reviewing WHILE FRESH IN YOUR MIND – in the same day.

**Keeping Your Playlist Alive:** Students maintain a playlist as repertoire grows according to directions

**Student Home Materials,** - students order digital, hard copy or both. I usually give advance warning so you can budget.

**Teacher Absence** If for personal reasons or illness I am unable to teach, you will be credited your lesson fee in the following fee period.

**Unforeseen Major Absences** In the event of major, sudden life events which require a break for a month or more e.g. hospitalization, I will offer some leeway with regard to holding your place in the lesson schedule without payment, at my own discretion

**Just before your lesson** Enter 5 minutes early, practice quietly on keypad look over notes of the week, practice on your knees. Exit the area quietly as this is a 'sound' environment.

**Electronic devices** – etiquette - mobile phones to be on 'silent' please.

**Bring to class –books as directed** .Please leave REFERENCE BOOKS (diagrams) at home

**Punctuality** Late arrivals to group lessons are disruptive and reduce the effectiveness of lessons for everyone in the group.

**Opening and settling** into the lesson is important to the overall flow and success of your experience. Please plan to be 5 minutes (max 10 mins.) early to be settled with playlist open ready for your lesson.

**Advance notice of an absence** via email or phone is appreciated and for effective running of the teaching day. A text is also good -0408103194.

**Attendance, Cancellations, Make-ups and Refunds:** I am under no obligation to make-up or credit a lesson if missed.

**HOLIDAYS** If you choose not to pay for your allotted time over the time of an extended holiday and are in a private lesson, I'll assume you are aware of running the risk of losing your spot. A registration fee of \$10 to cover admin time will be payable on return from a break of a month or more where the students has elected not to cover missed lessons.

### **Some Options for Missed Lessons:**

1. In a group lesson, catch up using the notes and information from another group member (buddy). Contact information is exchanged within the group for this reason.

*Failing the effectiveness of the above and /or in private lessons*

2. Email me regarding lesson content catch-up. Alternatively phone between 7 & 7.30 PM 53596246/0408103194 for this purpose. This time slot is also available for general explanations either musical or organisational.

3. In the case of private lessons you may also wish to *gift* a missed lesson to a friend or family member in situations such as your own holiday. (Many students do this for other students in timeslots either before and after so they can have a double lesson – often most appreciated!)

**Flexible Group Lesson Scheduling:** Your group lesson may need to be moved in consultation with you from one group lesson to another depending on level and ability.

**Sickness** Participants who are sick or have recently been sick and could be considered contagious are asked to please stay at home. I am happy to email more work for the week if this seems appropriate.

**Understanding the Simply Music Journey** Please read and download the curriculum from [www.simplymusicpiano.com](http://www.simplymusicpiano.com) for keyboard requirements and also so that you are au fait with the entire Simply Music journey. **It's a good idea to browse over this** curriculum at least once a year. This will answer any queries about when we do *what* programs and you also have a sense where you are going.

**TIP FOR GREAT HOME LEARNING** Get a whiteboard with coloured markers -often to be used while learning

**Dismissal** Regrettably I will have to let go a student if the following occurs – failure to pay tuition in a timely fashion, persistent absences without explanation, persistent lateness, persistent not bringing requirements to class, uncooperative attitude student or parent, lack of progress due to insufficient practice or unfulfilled requirements. There will be no refunds of tuition fees or materials on termination. (Haven't done it yet!)

**Students Leaving:** As a courtesy to my schedule, I would appreciate a month's notice indicating your last day.

**Fee Scale** Available on request

**Referrals** I offer a free 4 weeks tuition for any new student enrolments which have result from a referral from an existing student.

**Instrumental Music Events/Recitals:** All students are part of and commit to some of the events run by this studio. Piano Parties, Piano Club, home gatherings, busking, Play with a Band etc. All Simply Music students are welcome at all events. I work hard to cultivate an atmosphere of music being something to share and give to another. Distance students are definitely part of the culture of musical sharing.

**PS New adult students –you are never expected to perform at your first party or event. It is meant to be fun!! Of course if you want to you'll be welcomed with open arms!**

*This policy is amended every year as situations change.*

*If you are uncomfortable with any detail above, now is the time to mention it.*

Unmani

**Advanced Simply Music Teacher**

**Teaching live and via Skype, Zoom and phone**