

## **Guide to Private Lessons**

### ***What is the right age to get started?***

Adults that are interested in starting lessons for the first time can easily start with any instrument. We teach beginner students in their 60's and 70's. We even teach adults who are returning to a loved instrument after many years of being away.

For children, starting at the right age is a key element to their musical success. Many instruments require a certain amount of lung power, finger strength, or body size that children may not possess at a young age. Our staff is happy to discuss the readiness of any student. The following information is an age guideline for beginners. Readiness also depends on each individual student.

### ***2-5 Years Old –***

Group lessons give young kids a hands-on experience in music through games, singing, rhythm instruments and movement. Basic musical ideas are taught in a playful environment before moving on to private lessons that require a higher level of attention.

### ***Piano –***

Piano is a great beginning instrument, whether a student stays with the piano or moves to a different instrument. Students as young as 6 years have begun to develop longer attention spans, can retain material with ease and can identify alphabet letters used in music.

### ***Ukulele –***

The Ukulele is great for young kids 5 – 7 years, small instrument to fit small hands.

### ***Cello, Viola & Violin –***

String instruments are light and easy to manage for beginners. The average age for cello is 7 years and violin/viola is 6 years.

### ***Guitar (Acoustic, Electric, Bass) –***

Guitar playing requires a fair amount of pressure on the fingertips from pressing on the

strings. Guitar students are generally 7 years old. Bass guitar students generally are 8 years and older.

### ***Voice –***

The earliest that we recommend for voice is 10 years old. Due to the physical nature of voice lessons (proper breathing techniques, development of the vocal chords and lung capacity), a younger body is generally not ready for vocal technique.

### ***Drums –***

Teachers can modify a drum kit based on the needs and size of the student. The average age is 6 years.

### ***Flute, Clarinet, and Saxophone –***

Due to lung capacity (and in the case of saxophone, the size of the instrument), most woodwind beginners are 8 and older.

### ***Trumpet and Trombone –***

9 years and older is best for the trumpet & trombone since these instruments require physical exertion and lung power.

### ***How Long Should Lessons Be?***

- Students 5-8 years old should start with 30-minute weekly lessons.
- Students 9-12 years old can start with 45-minute weekly lessons depending on readiness.
- Students 13-adults can start with 45 or 60-minute weekly lessons.

### ***How Long Should I Practice?***

Your teacher will recommend the best practice length to meet your goals. As your skills improve, your teacher may recommend longer lesson and practice times.