

MICHAEL GOODMAN

COMPOSER | TUBA/EUPHONIUM | ARTS ADMINISTRATOR

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Music Composition Lesson Policies and Agreement

Attendance

The student is expected to attend every scheduled lesson. Lessons may be canceled up to 24 hours in advance for any reason. If a lesson is canceled in this manner, there will be no charge for the canceled lesson. Any cancellation made in less than 24 hours prior to a scheduled lesson will result in a 100% cancellation fee.

Of course, emergency circumstances are an exception and will result in no charge for the scheduled lesson. Such circumstances include but are not limited to medical emergency or family emergency. Circumstances that are not included in this clause are scheduling mishaps such as conflicts sports practices, athletic events, after school activities, social events, or skipping a lesson.

Please keep your and your student's schedule in order so that scheduling mishaps like the ones listed above do not happen.

This policy is necessary because our time and money are valuable. Music Composition lessons are essentially appointments with a specialist in the field. Because of this, my policy is like that of a doctor or dentist but affordable.

Scheduling

Lessons must be scheduled consistently. At, or before, the first lesson, the student and/or student's parent/guardian and I will decide on the day of the week and the frequency (weekly, biweekly, monthly) at which lessons will take place.

The purpose of this is to ensure consistency in my schedule in addition to the student's progress and schedule.

Of course, if a lesson must be rescheduled occasionally, this is acceptable. I simply do not wish to schedule a different day and time for each lesson as this gets confusing for all parties involved.

Student Preparation

Students are expected to practice all the exercises and projects assigned each week to their maximum potential to ensure maximum progress. For beginning students, this means that they should spend at least 20 minutes writing music for at least 5 days per week (an hour per day would be exceptional, but not mandatory).

For more advanced students, they are expected to spend at least an hour per day composing music. I recommend students to make a practice journal in order to input the amount of time that has been put into their practice. All I ask is that the student prepare for their lessons, as I will.

Students are expected to compose in one of two methods*:

- **By hand:** This method is the slowest method for composing music, however it is the most affordable since the only expenses will be pencils, erasers, and manuscript paper.
 - You can also print off free manuscript paper on <https://www.essential-music-theory.com/blank-manuscript-paper.html#downloadmanuscript>. If you print your manuscript paper, I recommend you printing 12 staves in US letter size.

- **By music notation software:** This method is highly preferred by many college professors and professional jobs since it is the quickest way to compose music and it automatically makes your music look like a professional product! There are many kinds of music notation software, but the ones I recommend are Finale and Sibelius.
 - If the student decides to compose by using notation software, be aware that notation software can be very expensive! If you are new to composing on notation software and you own a **Windows* computer**, I recommend using Finale NotePad. It is **free** which features the basics for the beginning composer. Available on <http://www.finale.com>
*I am currently looking for alternatives for those operating on an Apple computer.
 - For the more advanced student, you should buy the Finale 26 academic version or Sibelius 6/7 academic version. The difference between academic and the original version is the price. Finale 2014 is \$350.

- Students that use **Finale** can either bring a USB flash drive to the lesson or their laptop. Students that use **Sibelius** can either bring their laptop, or create a CD of the audio file with the printed score.
- Make sure the file is either **PDF or printed out**.
 - The following link contains 10 PDF printer drivers:
 - <https://pdf.wondershare.com/top-pdf-software/free-pdf-printer.html>

If a student does not prepare adequately for his or her lesson (i.e. they cannot successfully present their assignments, or no progress has been made), then he or she may be dismissed from the lesson early without a refund.

* students are encouraged to experiment with **both** methods of composing, though it is not required during the early stages of composing.

Payment and Location

My rates are as follows (per lesson):

Half Hour: \$30.00

One Hour: \$55.00

I teach in Modesto, California. Preferably, Music Composition lessons will be taught at the Gottschalk Music Center. Lessons are also available at the student's school **with permission** by the music teacher of that school.

If you are not from Stanislaus, CA, I also offer lessons via Skype! Make sure you have strong wifi in order to have lessons online.

Agreement

Agreement	Date/Time/Fee	Initials
First Lesson (date, time, duration)		
Regular Lesson Day		
Regular Lesson Time		
Regular Lesson Frequency	<i>Weekly/bi-weekly/monthly</i>	
Regular Lesson Duration		
Regular Lesson Fee		
Amount Expected to Pay per Lesson		
First payment due		
Regular payments due		
Location of Lesson	<i>Gottschalk/Online/Other-</i>	

I, _____ agree to the above policies for Music Composition/Theory lessons provided by Michael Goodman and to abide by the selected regular lesson day, time, frequency, duration, and fees as applied to the chart above.

Student/Guardian

Michael Goodman