

# AVILA LOTOSKI MUSIC STUDIO

## 2025 – 2026 Studio Policy

Thank you for choosing me as your piano teacher. To ensure that you or your child receives the most effective and creative teaching possible, I have established the following policies.

*Music is discovery - let's explore!*



## ► LOCATION

Lessons between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and weekend makeup lessons will be taught in my studio, 1801 – 160 Erskine Ave. Lessons between 3:30 and 8:30 p.m. will be taught in the student's home. Online lessons are available.

## ► COMMUNICATION: contact – communication

### Contact

Avila Lotoski

416-485-6562

Avila.Lotoski@hotmail.com

### Communication

Please send me an email any time about what is happening with you or your child or to ask questions. The best time to call me is Monday – Friday between 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Your insights are invaluable to me and are always very welcome.

## ► TEACHING YEAR: calendar – punctuality – missed lessons

### Calendar

The regular Teaching Year runs from Monday September 1 through Thursday June 11 and, for billing purposes, is divided into two terms.

#### Theory Lessons – exam preparation (32 lessons)

- Term One: Monday September 1 – Thursday January 29
- Term Two: Monday February 2 – Thursday May 7
- **First day after Winter Break: Monday January 5**

#### Composition and Piano Lessons (37 lessons)

- Term One: Monday September 1 – Thursday January 29
- Term Two: Monday February 2 – Thursday June 11
- **First day after Winter Break: Monday January 5**

No lessons will be held during the following Toronto District School Board Winter and Mid-Winter breaks.

**Winter Break**    **December 15 – Jan. 7**

**Mid-Winter Break**    **March 16 – 20**

**PLEASE NOTE: lessons WILL be held on all holiday Mondays!**

## Punctuality

Students are expected to be on time for lessons. An extension of lesson time will not necessarily be granted to those who are late.

## Missed Lessons

Fees are not reduced for missed or cancelled lessons. Students/Parents must notify the teacher as soon as is possible, preferably at least 24 hours in advance, if a cancellation is required. When a student cancels a lesson, that time will be available to another student who needs a makeup lesson. Students may also visit another student's lesson to makeup for a missed lesson. Makeup lessons are not scheduled outside of the regular teaching schedule. **Makeup lessons are not guaranteed and there is no refund for missed lessons. A maximum of three makeup lessons will be given within the Teaching Year.** If the teacher cancels a lesson, a makeup lesson will be scheduled as soon as is possible; this makeup lesson will not count towards the student's maximum of three makeup lessons.

*Committing to a regular schedule of lessons and at-home practice guarantees a student's continuous, high-quality progress.*

► **STUDENTS:** hand-washing & health – perfumes – development – practice policy – performances

## Hand-Washing

To help prevent illness and to keep the piano keyboard clean, all students are asked to wash their hands with soap and water when they first arrive for their lesson. A hand towel is available for their exclusive use. **If a student has *any* symptom of illness, they can choose to: wear a mask to their lesson; take their lesson online at their regular lesson time; or reschedule their lesson.**

## Perfumes

A member of our household suffers migraines, and these are aggravated by scents. At in-studio lessons, please avoid using scented soaps, lotions, and perfumes/colognes on your lesson day.

# Make the Most of Music Lessons

## Setting you up for success.

Follow the suggestions below and you will see significant, steady progress.

### Practice

- Practice 5 days a week.
- Complete all theory homework at the *beginning* of your practice week.
- Come to your next lesson with all work completed.

### Listen

- Listen to and watch other performers, especially professionals.
- Record yourself while practicing and study these recordings.

### Theory & History Study

- Study theory and history to accelerate progress and learning.

### Perform

- Share your music: perform as often as possible.
- Nervousness about performing is normal. Practice and use assigned coping strategies.

### Have Fun

- Be playful: make sure part of your work is finding something intriguing, beautiful, joyful, delicious, or delightful in the music you play!

## Learning to Practice

Consistent, high-quality practice – 5 days a week, every week of the teaching year – gives you skills to play with confidence, creativity, and joy. If this isn't happening, we will work together to find the right formula of scheduling, goals, practice strategies, and motivation to get you on your best pathway to learning and playing.

# Performances and other Opportunities

The following performance opportunities are available to my students this year.

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| ORMTA Central Toronto Branch: Children's Hallowe'en Recital (ages 4 - 12) | October                 |
| ORMTA Central Toronto Branch: Fall Scholarship Auditions                  | November                |
| ORMTA Central Toronto Branch: Composition Workshop                        | November                |
| ORMTA Central Toronto Branch: Composition Master Class                    | January                 |
| ORMTA Central Toronto Branch: Piano Master Class                          | January/February        |
| Kiwanis Music Festival  | February                |
| ORMTA Central Toronto Branch: Teen Recital (ages 13 – 17)                 | February                |
| ORMTA Central Toronto Branch: Adult Recital (ages 18 and up)              | February                |
| ORMTA Central Toronto Branch: Spring Scholarship Auditions                | April                   |
| <b>Avila Lotoski Music Studio Recital</b>                                 | <b>Sunday June 7</b>    |
| Conservatory Piano Examinations   | June                    |
| <b>Outdoor Music Camp</b>   | <b>June/July/August</b> |
| <b>Summer Music Lessons</b>   | <b>June/July/August</b> |

## Event Descriptions

- **ORMTA Central Toronto Branch Children's Hallowe'en Recital**  
An extremely popular series of short and fun recitals. Students dress up in Hallowe'en costumes. Memorization not required.
- **ORMTA Central Toronto Branch Scholarship Auditions**  
The Ontario Registered Music Teachers hold two scholarship auditions each teaching year, Fall and Spring. In the auditions, students may play up to three pieces for an adjudicator in an exam-like setting. They receive a mark and helpful commentary from the adjudicator and those who receive high marks may move on to the Scholarship Recitals, where they perform in a public recital and have the chance to win scholarships between \$50.00 and \$150.00.
- **Kiwanis Music Festival**  
Students can enter one or several "classes" where they perform a single work in front of fellow competitors, the adjudicator, and an audience. They receive a mark and helpful commentary. Those who enter two or more classes are eligible to receive scholarships upwards of \$50.00.

- **ORMTA Central Toronto Branch Teen Recital**

A short and fun recital for youth ages 13 – 17. This is near Valentine's Day and the music you perform can be anything that delights you! Memorization not required.

- **ORMTA Central Toronto Branch Adult Recital**

An adults-only recital for ages 18 and up, any level of playing. All adult students are strongly encouraged to take this performance opportunity in a very friendly, supportive environment! Memorization not required.

- **Avila Lotoski Music Studio Recital**

**Students are expected to perform a set of three or more solo pieces and a duet in this recital. Student compositions will be performed by the teacher.**

- **Conservatory Practical (Piano) Examinations**

Conservatory examinations test a range of musical skills including ability to identify intervals, chords, progressions; clap back and play back musical examples played by the examiner; sight read a short musical example; perform memorized scale, chord, and arpeggio patterns; and perform a set of pieces accurately, with musical expression, from memory. Other types of exams will also test improvisation skills. Beginning with Level 5, students must write the co-requisite theory exam of the same level.

- **Outdoor Music Camps**

Registration opens in December 2025.

- Soundgarden Music Camp**

Ages 4 – 7

This is a 5-day, full-day camp or half-day morning camp. Campers learn basic botany and gardening skills and create short vocal compositions.

- Soundcatchers Digital Music Camp**      Ages 8 and up

This is a 5-day, full-day camp. Campers learn weather science, navigation and hiking skills and learn how to compose with an app. Phone/tablet required.

- Soundpainting Music Camp**      Ages 13 and up

This is a 5-day, half-day afternoon camp. Campers visit different outdoor spaces in Toronto and create short orchestral compositions depicting the landscape using music notation software. Campers must have theory training and music notation skills. Tablet/laptop required.

► **FEES:** rates – payment method – NSF charges – refund policy – payment schedule

## Rates

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>30-minute lesson</b><br>\$60.00 per lesson  | <b>45-minute lesson</b><br>\$90.00 per lesson | <b>1-hour lesson</b><br>\$120.00 per lesson |
| <b>1.25-hour lesson</b><br>\$150.00 per lesson | <b>1.5-hour lesson</b><br>\$162.00 per lesson | <b>2-hour lesson</b><br>\$192.00 per lesson |

## Shared Lessons

Shared lessons are available at a reduced rate for two students working at the same level and with the same materials. Students are responsible for finding a second student to work with. Please inquire for more details.

## Payment Method

Payment is made by etransfer to avila.lotoski@hotmail.com OR post-dated cheque, made out for the first of each month, payable to Avila Lotoski. For etransfers, I recommend scheduling transfers ahead of time. **All cheques for the full Teaching Year are required at the onset of the student's lessons.**

**NSF Charge:** \$25.00 per item.

## Refund Policy

**PLEASE NOTE:** If a minimum one-month notice is not given for discontinuation of lessons, one month's lesson fees are due. If lessons are discontinued within the last two months of the Teaching Year, tuition is still required for the remainder of the Teaching Year. If the teacher discontinues a student's lessons, one month's notice will be given in writing. If the teacher cancels a lesson and cannot give a make-up lesson, there is a full credit or refund.

# Payment Schedule

**PLEASE NOTE:** Registration and Studio Recital Fee: \$35.00 (due at time of registration).

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Monthly<br>(10 payments)     | Cheques are dated/direct deposits are made the first day of each month of the Teaching Year.<br><br><b>NOTE:</b> Students who sign up for ONLY theory lessons have a shorter school year and only 9 monthly payments, ending in May. |
| Term<br>(2 payments)         | Cheques are dated/direct deposits are made the first day of each of the First and Second Term of the Teaching Year (September 1, 2025 and February 1, 2026).   |
| Teaching Year<br>(1 payment) | The cheque is dated/direct deposit made September 1, 2025.   |

## FULL YEAR: 37 Lessons

Piano, theory (with or without exam), history (with or without exam), composition.

| Payment Frequency      | Monthly (x 10) | Term (x 2) | Teaching Year (x 1) |
|------------------------|----------------|------------|---------------------|
| <b>PRIVATE LESSONS</b> |                |            |                     |
| 30-minute lesson       | \$222.00       | \$1110.00  | \$2220.00           |
| 45-minute lesson       | \$333.00       | \$1665.00  | \$3330.00           |
| 1-hour lesson          | \$444.00       | \$2220.00  | \$4440.00           |
| 1.25-hour lesson       | \$555.00       | \$2775.00  | \$5550.00           |
| 1.5-hour lesson        | \$599.40       | \$2997.00  | \$5994.00           |
| 2-hour lesson          | \$754.80       | \$3774.00  | \$7548.00           |

*Continues on next page*



**THEORY with EXAM: 32 Lessons**

Lessons run Sept. 3 – May 8

Choose this plan if you are ONLY taking theory/history with exam, and NOT any other type of lesson (piano, etc.).

| <b>Payment Frequency</b> | <b>Monthly (x 9)</b> | <b>Term (x 2)</b> | <b>Teaching Year (x 1)</b> |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 45-minute lesson         | \$320.00             | \$1440.00         | \$2880.00                  |
| 1-hour lesson            | \$426.67             | \$1920.00         | \$3840.00                  |
| 1.5-hour lesson          | \$576.00             | \$2592.00         | \$5184.00                  |