



 **BRASS BELL**  
MUSIC STORE

# LESSON HANDBOOK

*Your Guide to a Successful Music Experience*

# SMART INVESTMENT / BIG REWARD

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*You have given your child the ultimate gift: open doors to a lifelong passion.*

*Studying music comes with countless rewards. The vast majority of musicians describe music as a source of pride, comfort, and accomplishment. Music fosters teamwork, can knock down barriers, and gives musicians a priceless way to express themselves and their personal journeys. In short, being a musician changes a person. It adds a new dimension to one's identity and layers to one's personality.*



*The instrument that your child plays will become a part of how they describe themselves to others.*

*When an employer inevitably says: "Tell me a little about yourself," they will proudly respond with "I'm a musician!"*

*Is your child naturally gifted? They might be. However, a natural gift for music only provides an initial headstart. All students can become masters regardless of their initial talents. Practicing will unlock your child's true musical potential.*

*Practicing music, like any worthwhile endeavor, can bring frustrations. Many students are not used to independently practicing a challenging skill several times a week. It is during times of musical difficulty and frustration that most young musicians feel tempted to give up. Don't worry! As a team, Brass Bell instructors and parents can work together, using the techniques in this packet, to encourage students to persevere.*

# METHODS AND STRATEGIES

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*Consider these practicing methods and strategies as you guide your young musician.*

**PRACTICING ZONE** *Giving a musician a special place for practicing can make it a more focused task. Encourage your child to decorate their practicing area with inspiring pictures and quotes that remind them what they love about music!*

**CREATE A SPACE JUST FOR MUSIC**

**QUALITY OVER QUANTITY** *Many young musicians struggle to practice for extended periods of time. This is absolutely normal. Instead of pushing for long periods of time, emphasize the importance of focused practice time. Prompt your child to set a goal for their practice and work towards that goal, rather than a time amount. Twenty minutes of practice once a day is often more helpful than practicing for two hours once a week!*



**CONSISTENCY IS KEY** *While it is important to practice multiple times each week, it is also important that there are patterns in the practice routine. For instance, if your child is trying to perfect a certain song or piece, they should return to that song/piece consistently throughout the week. A great way to ensure that your child has consistent goals and routines is to make use of our “Musician Practice Log!”*

**RECORD AND PLAYBACK YOUR CHILD’S MUSIC** *A classic strategy for practicing (at all levels) is to have the child record themselves and listen to the recording. Prompt your young musician to identify the strengths they hear as well as the elements that they still need to improve.*

**PERFORMANCE TRAINING WHEELS** *You can ease your child into the thrill of performing by helping them find opportunities to perform in low-stress environments. This can start at a distance by putting together a video for friends/family of them playing. As your young musician grows more confident, community performances (such as playing at a retirement home) can further develop their performance skills. Playing for others is an essential part of learning to play music that cannot be replicated without performance opportunities like these.*

# TIPS TO ENCOURAGE AND INSPIRE

*Always remember that you are your child's hero! You can help them stay energized and motivated on a daily basis. This section will guide you through some simple ways to encourage and inspire your child.*

## CHALLENGE THEM TO TEACH YOU

*Sometimes students have difficulty articulating what they learned in their lessons. One of the most effective ways to learn is to teach. Not only will you have a better understanding of what they're doing, it also provides a great opportunity for the student to understand their own lesson better! Additionally, it teaches them to be responsible for remembering what their assignments are for the week.*

## SET GOALS TOGETHER

*Do they want to be a rock star? Do they want to play the violin without making screeches? Asking your child questions such as: "What do you want to get better at before the next lesson?" or "If you could perform piece of music in the world, what would you choose?" is a great way to reinforce the value of practicing music.*

## ASSIGN YOURSELF PRACTICE TIME

*Remind your child that practicing skills and maintaining routines is a part of your life too! Perhaps return to a favorite hobby of yours and practice that while they practice music, or designate practice time as your time to do light cleaning. This makes practice time a family routine and helps alleviate resistance to practice.*



## RESEARCH GREAT MUSICIANS

*Having a favorite baseball/football player is common, so why not encourage a student to have a favorite musician as well? Look up information on the student's favorite musicians as well as musicians who are experts on your student's instrument and encourage them to explore music performed on their instrument.*

**TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THEIR TEACHER'S SHOWS** *It's inspiring for the student to see their teacher working as a professional musician outside of the lesson environment. If you can't go, see if they have any videos from their performances!*

**LISTEN TO WHAT THEY'RE LEARNING** *Another useful habit for developing musicians is to listen to the music that they are practicing. Some lesson books come with recordings. Other songs can be found on the internet. If all else fails, have the teacher record*



**ATTEND A CONCERT FEATURING YOUR CHILD'S INSTRUMENT** *Your child can be inspired by those who have already practiced and achieved. By attending higher level performances, the student can set their goals for both the near and distant future. This can be a professional concert, or even the performance of an individual who is just a book or two ahead of your child. Brass Bell holds recitals that are free to attend throughout the year. We also have a community bulletin full of local venues advertising their performances.*

**HANDLING RESISTANCE** *If your child frequently struggles with practicing, ask why. What made them interested in playing the instrument in the first place? Why are they uninspired now? Sometimes, all a student needs is a little reminding of what made them love music in the first place. Sometimes, they may be frustrated over something being 'too hard' and may need to take their piece in smaller sections. This is a great opportunity to communicate with the instructor about their frustrations.*



# YOUR CHILD'S TEAM

*Behind every great musician is a team of supporters and mentors. At Brass Bell, we are honored to be a part of your child's team. Teamwork between families and teachers is essential to promoting musical growth.*

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING PRESENT

*Interacting with the teacher, even just for a few minutes a week, is crucial to understanding what's expected of your child. Not only can it give you a sense of what to expect during practice, but also nurtures the relationship you are developing as partners in support of their musical endeavor. Checking in at the beginning or end of each lesson is necessary to give everyone (student included) a voice in setting goals and strategies for future practice.*

**YOU HAVE A SAY** *It is important for teachers to hear feedback from you and your child. Remember that the pace of the lessons, goal setting, lesson requirements, and overall learning experience is intended to be customized to your family's needs. Our teachers are here to help you and your child achieve the most from your lessons time!*



## KNOW YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

*Having a great teacher helps to maintain an encouraging environment for both the parent and student during times of struggle. Sometimes just having the option to discuss an issue with someone who is also invested in your child's musical growth can reinforce confidence in yourself and your child's progress. Tip: A great way to remember the teacher's information is to write it in your child's Practice Log!*

## ASK TEACHERS FOR SUGGESTIONS ON PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

*Your teacher will begin to develop a working relationship with your child and will have better insight on performance opportunities and community events than someone who doesn't work on a weekly basis with your child.*

# METHODS AND STRATEGIES

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*These methods are specifically recommended by your young musician's teacher!*

**TEACHER NAME:**

**INSTRUMENT/VOICE PART:**

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*[practice tips from your teacher]*

# RENT OUR RECITAL HALL

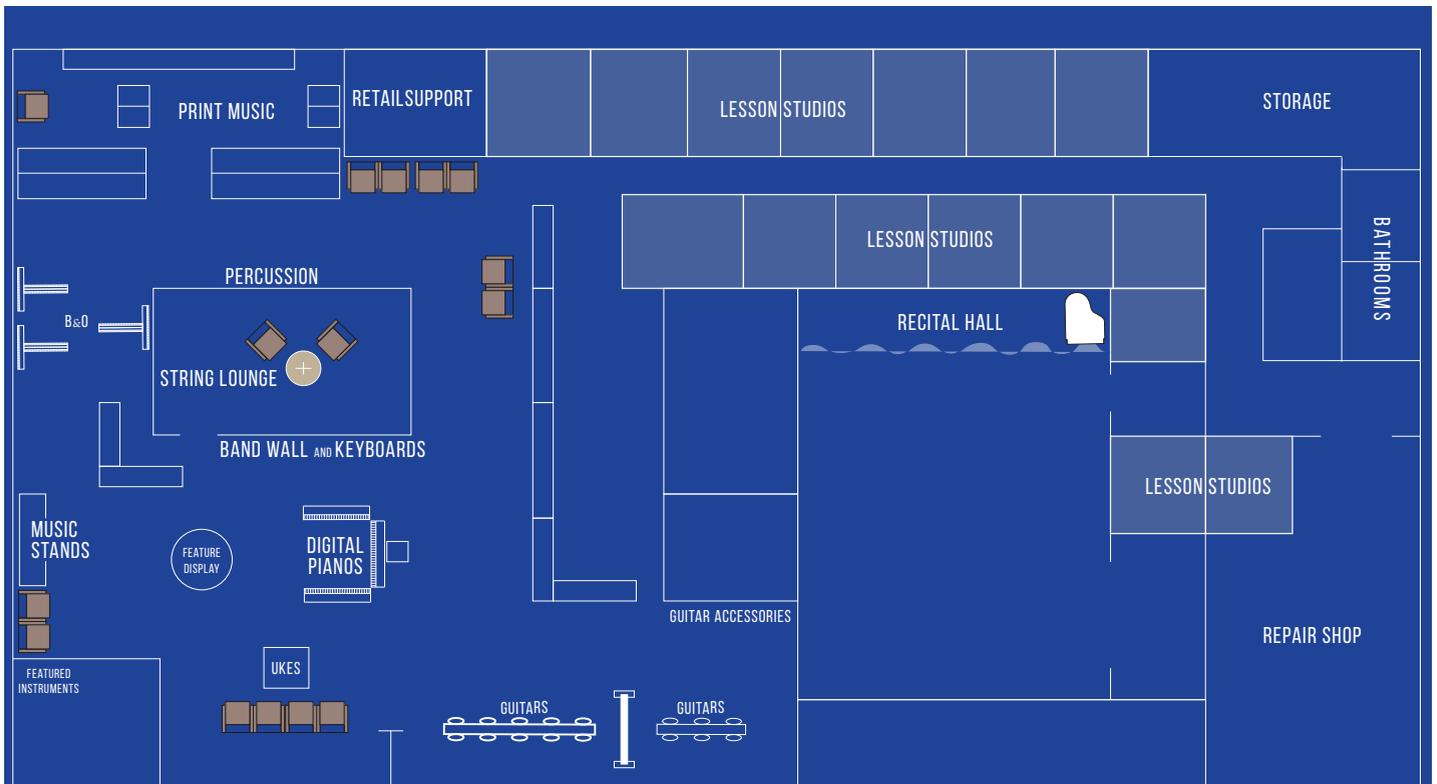
GREAT FOR MEETINGS, PERFORMANCES, CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, AND MORE

MAX CAPACITY: 50



## 600 SQUARE FEET OF PERFORMANCE SPACE!

### *Brass Bell Music Store Blueprint*



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