

Ruth Kasckow Flute Studio

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Welcome to my Flute Studio Information Sheet. I'd love to hear from you after you read this and look forward to meeting you. Please email me.

About the Lessons

I teach flute lessons at my home studio in La Canada which is half way between Pasadena and Glendale. Students take weekly lessons and lessons are 30, 45 or 60 minutes in length. Beginners may start with 30 minute lessons but after a year of study, I recommend 45 or 60 minute lessons when possible.

Lessons are paid for at the beginning of the month for that month's lesson. The fees are as follows:

30 minutes	\$30
45 minutes	\$45
60 minutes	\$60

For example, for a four week month of 45 minute lessons, the monthly fee paid at the beginning of the month is \$180. My schedule follows the school calendar with regard to holidays.

Lessons are generally scheduled for after school hours at a mutually agreed upon time. My cancellation policy allows for rescheduling as long as I know at least a day in advance of any problems. If prior arrangements are not made, you are responsible for paying for the missed lesson. I will make up the lesson in the case of illness or if I have to cancel.

What Do You Need?

You will need to contact me to set up a lesson so we can meet, answer any questions and take a lesson. As a student of mine, you will need a good flute in working order, a spiral notebook, a music stand at home, a metronome, and any music books that you have already or that I will assign to you. In addition, we use the large exercise balls in lessons and I recommend the students have one at home.

The lessons are geared to you and your needs. We always work on tone production, breathing, scales, rhythmic accuracy, sight reading, musicality, tuning, technique, musical terms, and all aspects of playing the flute. We also spend time on anatomy and how the body works relative to playing the flute to achieve the most balanced and free way of playing.

You will be given an assignment every week at your lesson. It is your job to practice at home so you are prepared each week. That way you're moving ahead and getting the most out of your lesson.

About My Teaching

It is my intention that every student takes an active part in their learning. Many times I will suggest ways of doing things so students have the opportunity to discover for themselves. In fact practicing is a time to be curious and figure things out, not just "doing what the teacher says." At times, playing for 10 minutes in a fully engaged way is more productive than playing mindlessly for a longer time. So I emphasize being mindfully engaged in the process. I also want my students to enjoy themselves whenever they play their flute at home, in the lesson, at school or for a concert. Learning is more effective when the student is having fun and feels good about what they're doing. My approach is always positive and encouraging.

I know all students have different levels of commitment to playing the flute. I think it is important to recognize each individual's needs but also encourage them to do their best. Doing one's best boosts one's confidence and competence both, leading to success.

During a lesson a student can expect conventional music training in the form of playing scales, learning flute technique and learning music. In addition I may have a student sit on the large exercise ball to help with relaxation or to bounce lightly to the beat to experience the music through movement. I may have a student drape over the ball to open up the back and release the spine to greatly increase breathing capacity. We may use Garage Band on my Mac to record the student so that a student can immediately hear how it sounds and develop a critical ear. We may dissect a piece of music and learn about the harmony or imagine the piece of music as a soundtrack to figure out what the music is saying. Or we may look at a picture of the bones of the hand so a student can understand how we move and what is the most effective way to play.

MTAC-CM

The Music Teachers Association of California is an organization of private music teachers in California. I belong to the Pasadena Branch and am involved with the Certificate of Merit program. This program has been developed to teach students music theory, ear training, flute technique and flute repertoire for nine different levels, from beginning to advanced. The private teacher instructs and guides the students and it culminates in a written and performance evaluation which results in the Certificate of Merit. There are fees paid to MTAC for this.