



***Ali Dettmer***  
***Flute Studio Handbook***

# Welcome to my studio!!

I am so excited to start working with you! There's a lot to go over, so I've broken down the information into big sections:

## Teaching Philosophy and Expectations

I promise to do my best to always meet you exactly where you are. So if there is ever something in particular that you're struggling with or want to work on, please never hesitate to let me know! These lessons are completely about you and your flute needs. My private lessons are also a judgment free zone. Playing the flute should make us feel good about ourselves and I never want you to leave a lesson feeling defeated. My lessons are a safe place and my #1 priority is having a good working relationship with my students.

I do expect you to practice outside of our lessons. These precious 30, 45, or 60 minutes we share should be focused on working towards the next goal; I wouldn't want to pay someone to practice with me every week and we wouldn't really be getting anywhere that way! That being said, I'm not going to tell you that you have to spend x hours a day practicing. What I will do is instruct you in how to practice throughout the week in effective ways that make the most of your practice time. I will provide focus goals on a shared notebook every week so that you know what to work on before the next lesson. Remember, you're going to get out of flute playing what you put into it on your own time. Try your best, that's all I'll ever ask!

## How Do Lessons Work?

If we are meeting in person, please arrive no more than 5 minutes ahead of your scheduled lesson. I have a small waiting room in my apartment that you are welcome to unpack your instrument in (and your parent can sit in for your lesson, if they wish). For every lesson you are expected to bring: your flute, your music (repertoire and exercises), a pencil, a metronome and tuner, and a notebook for us to take notes in.

For online lessons: I will provide you a Zoom link every week. While not required, I've found that using an external microphone greatly enhances the quality of sound (and likelihood that Zoom won't peak out in the middle of playing a passage). Besides that, you will be required to have the following every lesson: your flute, your music (repertoire and exercises), a pencil, and access to a metronome and tuner. We will also have a shared Google document between the two of us to take notes every week on our lessons.

If you have any burning questions about the music throughout the week or are really struggling with a particular passage, feel free to reach out to me (contact info at the bottom of page 3). I will do my best to get back to you as soon as I can! I want to be your teacher more than just our short meeting time each week and provide whatever assistance I can that is beneficial to your musical education journey!

## **What Will We Work On?**

The short answer: everything! The long answer: we'll work together on developing good flute technique, both in terms of tone production and facility of fingers and articulations, and contextualizing this through etudes, pieces, and maybe even orchestral excerpts. If you have something on your end that you're working towards, maybe a seating audition or district band audition, we will of course work on those. I want our lessons to revolve around you and your wants/needs so please always let me know if there's something you've been dying to try! (I might mention here that I can teach you flute beatboxing...) I have sample lesson templates later in this document if you want more information on the specific typical timings of lessons.

For your very first lesson with me, just bring something that you're currently working on (whether it be a band assignment, the last piece you played with a private teacher, or just something you're playing in your free time for fun). We'll go from wherever you are!

## **Payment**

I do expect payments to be made at the start of each lesson. I can take payments via cash, Venmo (@adettmer), PayPal (@alidettmer), or check. My rates are as follows:

\$40/30-minute lesson

\$50/45-minute lesson

\$60/60-minute lesson

## **Cancellations/Makeup Lessons**

We are all busy people! Let's just try our best to be transparent with each other. If you have to cancel a lesson, I ask you to let me know as soon as possible. I am also more than happy to try and reschedule with enough notice. For cancellations made within 24 hours or if you are a no-call-no-show, you would owe me for the missed lesson. This policy keeps you accountable and is respectful to my time.

## **Contact Information**

If you ever need to reach me, feel free to email, call, or text at the following. I will do my best to get back to you as soon as possible!

Email: ali.dett@yahoo.com

Cell phone: (703) 994-6570