

# **Dr. Jake Saunders Cello Studio**

2022-2023 Studio Policy

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[jakesaunderscellist.com](http://jakesaunderscellist.com)

## **Introduction & Teaching Philosophy**

Welcome to my cello studio! I specialize in providing private cello lessons to students of any age and ability. Playing the cello is a nuanced endeavor, and an enjoyable experience with the instrument requires a substantial understanding of fundamental techniques. A primary objective of private cello lessons is to enhance the student's fluency of these fundamental aspects of the instrument, including intonation, rhythm, and tone production. My approach to these techniques is rooted in a classical methodology, but is applicable across genres.

Cello lessons are not limited to technical studies. Rather, cello technique becomes the vehicle for artistic expression and fulfillment. As a teacher, I strive to impart an appreciation and excitement for not only playing the cello but for music in general. Additionally, I believe that the skills developed in the pursuit of learning to play the cello are not only applicable to the study of music, but to a student's development as an individual. Qualities such as diligence, self-motivation, patience, responsibility, creative problem solving, and a sense of ambition are universally relevant to diverse pursuits and fields of study; as a teacher, I place emphasis on developing these personal skills as they apply to music.

### **Contact**

- My preferred methods of communication are text message and email.
- Phone number: 208-724-0751
- Email address: [jscellostudio@gmail.com](mailto:jscellostudio@gmail.com)
- Website: [jakesaunderscellist.com](http://jakesaunderscellist.com)

## **Studio Policy | 2022-23**

### **Private Lesson Options**

All private lessons are offered in 30- or 60-minute sessions.

#### **Option A**

- Private lessons whenever I'm in town

#### **Option B**

- Private lessons whenever I'm in town
- Private lessons with Dr. Philip Kettler whenever I'm out of town
- Offered to students on a case-by-case basis and as schedules allow
- It will be the student's responsibility to communicate and schedule lessons with Dr. Kettler

### **Locations**

#### **Tuesday & Friday lessons:**

325 Old Saybrook Dr. Boise, ID 83706

#### **Wednesday & Thursday lessons:**

Boise Philharmonic Offices

Esther Simplot Performing Arts Academy (ESPAA)

516 S 9th St. Boise, ID 83702

#### **Lessons at student's home:**

I am willing to travel to your home and/or a mutually agreeable location other than those listed above under the following conditions:

- Lessons must be scheduled Monday-Friday before 2:30pm
- If you live within Boise city limits and/or your location is less than a 20-mile round trip from 325 Old Saybrook Dr, Boise ID 83706, a flat rate of \$10 per lesson will be added to the regular lesson fee
- If you live outside Boise city limits and/or your location is more than a 20-mile round trip, the standard IRS business mileage rate of \$0.585 per mile will be added to the regular lesson fee

## **Lesson Descriptions**

### **30-minute lesson**

- 30-minute private lessons are recommended for most students, especially ages 8-15 (Elementary through early High School).
- Students will focus on preparing solo pieces in addition to music assigned from Public Schools Orchestra, Elementary/Junior High Honor Orchestra, or BPYO.
- Students will develop a basic understanding of fundamental cello technique, including intonation, rhythm, and posture.
- Students are expected to practice the assigned lesson materials at least 20 minutes 5 days a week.

### **60-minute Lesson**

- 60-minute private lessons are offered at my discretion to advanced students of any age.
- Students will focus on:
  - Developing a daily warm-up routine, including scales and various exercises;
  - Technical studies;
  - Solo repertoire;
  - Audition material for Elementary/Junior High Honor Orchestra, BPYO, All State, Public Schools Chamber Orchestras, summer music festivals, etc.;
  - Repertoire assigned from the above organizations.
- Students will develop a thorough understanding of fundamental cello technique, including intonation, rhythm, posture, tone production, and sight reading.
- Students are expected to practice the assigned lesson materials at least 60 minutes 5 days a week.

## **Lesson Rates**

30-minute lesson: \$40

60-minute lesson: \$60

New this year is the option of paying tuition for the entire semester, rather than paying in monthly increments. I'm happy to offer a 6.25% discount for this payment option.

### **Option A**

- 13 30-minute lessons: \$520; \$487.50 *with discount*
- 13 60-minute lessons: \$780; \$731.25 *with discount*

## **Option A: Lessons beginning after Week 1 and/or excluding Spring Break**

- **Lessons beginning the week of January 16:**
  - 12 30-minute lessons: \$480; \$450 *with discount*
  - 12 60-minute lessons: \$720; \$663.75 *with discount*
- **Lessons beginning the week of January 16 AND no lesson during Spring Break**
  - 11 30-minute lessons: \$440; \$412.50 *with discount*
  - 11 60-minute lessons; \$660; \$607.50 *with discount*

### **Payment Policy**

- I accept tuition for each semester *or* payment on a monthly basis
- Payment is due *at* or *before* the first lesson of every month or semester
- I do not accept payment for lessons on a weekly basis, except in unique circumstances
- Payment is accepted via Venmo, personal check, cash, or PayPal
  - Venmo: @JakeSaundersCello (-0751)
  - Personal checks are payable to Jake Saunders.
  - PayPal: jgsaun@gmail.com (*select friends/family option*)

### **Sliding-Scale Lesson Fees**

I am happy to offer sliding-scale lesson fees and scholarships based on the demonstrated need of a student. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis. To be eligible, students must submit a letter of support from their school music director.

### **2023 Lesson Calendar**

Week 1: January 9-15: Available

Week 2: January 16-22: Available

Week 3: January 23-29: Available

Week 4: January 30-February 5: Available

Week 5: February 6-12: Available

Week 6: February 13-19: Unavailable

Week 7: February 20-26: Available

Week 8: February 27-March 5: Unavailable

*Week 9: March 6-12: Unavailable*

*Week 10: March 13-19: Unavailable*

*Week 11: March 20-26: Available*

*Week 12: March 27-April 2: Available*

*Week 13: April 3-9: Available*

*Week 14: April 10-16: Unavailable*

*Week 15: April 17-23: Unavailable*

*Week 16: April 24-30: Pending*

*Week 17: May 1-7: Available*

*Week 18: May 8-14: Available*

*Week 19: May 15-21: Available*

*Week 20: May 22-28: Available*

## **Materials**

Students are expected to come to each lesson with the following materials:

- Cello & bow
- All assigned music, including private lesson method books and material from curricular and extracurricular ensembles.
- A blank, spiral notebook
- Metronome/tuner
- Most of the materials I'll use in private lessons can be downloaded via this [Google Drive Folder](#). Students are also welcome to purchase their own editions.

## **Expectations**

Students are expected to practice the daily amount recommended throughout the week and come to each lesson prepared with the assigned material. I will work to provide the student with personalized guidance appropriate to their current level of ability each week. In turn, the student is expected to explore and practice concepts and techniques presented throughout the week. A respect for this student-teacher relationship will result in the best possible experience in the private lesson setting and playing the cello in general.

I am aware that some concepts and techniques take time to develop. In my experience, however, there is a significant difference in the degree of success of students who attempt to understand difficult topics in practice sessions and students who do not. If a student attempts a difficult

concept and encounters problems or questions, the student is encouraged to communicate with me throughout the week and/or is expected to come to the following lesson prepared with questions. Though I never expect perfection, I do expect students to try their best!

### **Cancellation & Late Policy**

- Please notify me via text or email if you need to cancel or reschedule a lesson.
- I will reschedule lessons if at all possible. I am unable to offer refunds for canceled or missed lessons.
- If I need to cancel a lesson, I will provide 24-hour notice and options for rescheduling. If rescheduling is impossible, I will apply that lesson credit to the following month.
- If a student misses more than two lessons in a semester without notification, I will no longer reserve a lesson time for that student.
- If a student is more than 10 minutes late to a scheduled lesson, the lesson will be considered canceled. Though I might still be in the studio and available to teach for the remaining time, I can't guarantee this. I am unable to offer refunds in this scenario.

### **Professional Biography**

Dr. Jake Saunders is a cellist, educator, and collaborative artist.

Saunders serves as Associate Principal Cello with the Boise Philharmonic, where he also performs as a member of the Boise Philharmonic String Quartet. He is also a newly appointed member of the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra cello section. As an active member of the Playground Ensemble and Sphere Ensemble, Saunders has established himself as a sought after collaborative artist in Colorado. Other Colorado-based projects have included Boulder Altitude Directive (BAD), Boulder Symphony, and Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra.

Saunders is a founding member and Artistic Director of 208 ensemble, the first professional ensemble in Idaho dedicated to the advocacy and performance of music written by living composers. Since 2014, 208 ensemble has presented the Idaho-premiere of more than 50 contemporary works. Additionally, Saunders is the creator of Boise Cello Collective, a collaborative project among some of Idaho's preeminent cellists specializing in the performance of classical, contemporary, and popular music in nontraditional venues. Saunders serves as the group's director, arranger, and principal cellist.

Saunders has held principal orchestral positions with Symphony Tacoma and the Opera Idaho Orchestra and has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Utah Symphony, Boise Philharmonic, and the New Hampshire Music Festival. Additionally, Saunders has served as principal cellist with the symphonies of the University of Colorado Boulder, Boise State University, and University of Michigan, as well as the Music Academy of the West's Festival Orchestra and Aspen Music Festival and School's Aspen Conducting Academy.

Saunders has attended music festivals in the United States and abroad, including Aspen Music Festival and School, Ensemble Evolutions at the Banff Centre (CA), Blackbird Creative Lab, Music Academy of the West, Accademia Musicale Chigiana (IT), Castleman Quartet Program, LyricaFest, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Astona International Festival (CH), and International Music Academy at Pilsen (CZ). Former chamber music mentors include members of the Cleveland, Takacs, Cavani, Zemlinsky, Fry Street, and Ying Quartets, as well as International Contemporary Ensemble, eighth blackbird, Charles Castleman, Laura Bossert, and Terry King.

Saunders holds a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) in Cello Performance from the University of Colorado Boulder, where he served as Teaching Assistant to Prof. David Requiro. Additional degrees include Master of Music (MM) in Music Performance from Boise State University, where he studied with Dr. Brian Hodges, and Bachelor of Music (BM) in Cello Performance from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater and Dance, where he studied with Prof. Richard Aaron.

## **Student & Parent/Guardian Information**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Student email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**Agreement**

The parent(s)/guardian(s) and student have read, understand, and agree to the studio policy, expectations, lesson fee, and all other details herein.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_