

Kirby Hall School

A College Preparatory School Serving Pre-K through 12th Grade

OSCAR VILLANUEVA – STUDIO POLICIES FOR KIRBY HALL – FALL 2007

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ABOUT MYSELF

Oscar started his classical guitar studies in the year 1997 with Carlos Posada at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, Colombia. In the year of 2001 he was awarded a guitar scholarship at the University of North Texas under the tutelage of Thomas Johnson. He performed as a soloist as well as in chamber music with the Nova ensemble. He also premiered at the University of North Texas, *Icarus at the Cabaret Voltaire* for two guitarists by Joseph Klein. In 2003 he was awarded a guitar scholarship at the University of Texas, where he completed his BM studies with Adam Holzman.

Oscar has been chosen to play in multiple master classes including those by world famous guitarists, Leo Brouwer, Eliot Fisk, and David Russell. He has been active as a teacher, giving private music lessons. In 2007 Oscar joined LCP Fine Arts Academy as a guitar instructor. Oscar's teaching style reflects his philosophy that music is an integral part of a student's learning process, cultivating discipline, sensitivity, and creativity. A good solid technique will empower the talents of a student. Oscar is currently working on his Master's degree at the University of Texas at Austin.

PREPARATION

Learning guitar, as with any skill, involves a strong commitment from the teacher, the parents, and the students themselves. As a teacher, I can guide my students through the process of learning, but it is not possible for them to progress with only the 30 minute lesson per week without their own practice. You, the parent, can support your child's practice. You are encouraged to review assignments at home with your child. *I expect parents to be aware of their child's practice*, by checking their practice times. Parents will fill out a practice report weekly and give it to the student to take to the class. This report will be graded according to the student's development of the next lesson.

MATERIALS

It is very important to ensure that the student has the right materials as well as his/her right time for practicing.

- It is necessary to have a **guitar with the appropriate size**. There are two main sizes for guitars: 1/2 size for kids under 7 and 3/4 guitars for kids from 8-12 years. The next size is the full size guitars.
- We will need to have the **right size chair**. The student should use an appropriate chair allowing both feet to rest on the floor.
- An adjustable **footstool** is also needed.

It is very useful to have a practice space, a room, or a place where the student can develop a routine and good practicing habits. This space has to be free of distractions (no TV, no videogames, or phone) if possible.

ATTENDANCE

- I expect the student to attend all the lessons.
- School related activities found on the calendar are excusable of payment. Please check the calendar to ensure the actual number of lessons that will take place during the month. If there is no school, there will be no lessons. **You will need to notify me** the previous week if there is a school related activity that is not on the calendar.
- Absences related to illness are excusable only when they are notified at least by the night before of the day of the lesson. This will be an excused absence and the fee will be credited for the next month's tuition. If your child is sick and you do not notify me, it is considered an unexcused absence and tuition will not be credited. ***Absences due to anything besides illness or family emergencies are unexcused.***

TUITION

The tuition for private lessons this fall will be \$25 per 30 minute lesson. Checks are due on the first lesson of every month and should be made out to me personally. Cash is acceptable if you are able to bring it to me directly. Please check the calendar to make sure you pay for the correct number of lessons in that month, excluding of course, any school holidays.

CONTACT INFORMATION

I value open communication. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. **Please notify with enough time in advance about illness or school related activities that are not on the calendar.**

Cell: 512 7867988

E-mail oscarv@mail.utexas.edu

COMMITMENTS

Please return this section signed!!

I commit to doing my best during weekly lessons to develop your child's musical abilities. I will explore new and creative ways to reach your child's unique learning style, and I will strive to make the guitar club both enjoyable and productive.

(Teacher signature)

(date)

I acknowledge that I have read the above studio policies, and I commit to doing my part to prepare my child for weekly lessons. I understand that monthly tuition must be paid in full by the first lesson of the month or a \$25 charge will be added. I understand that tuition from an unexcused absence will NOT be credited.

(Parent signature)

(date)

I want to be an active member of the guitar club and I agree to practice and come to lessons. I will respect my teacher and listen to him during my lesson, and I promise to review my assignments at home before each lesson.

(Student signature)

(date)