

Welcome to lessons. I want to use this opportunity to go over my basic philosophy of instruction, discuss curriculum and lay out my lesson policies.

First of all, a little background on myself. I first picked up the guitar when I moved to Kansas City in early 2000 at age 19. I studied early on with Jay EuDaly using his method "Vertical Truth: Chordal Mechanisms for the Guitar". This study encompassed not only the basics of the instrument but also advanced instruction in music theory, specifically jazz theory. It was around this time that I began teaching. My interests led me towards jazz and classical guitar. I began to study with a local classical guitarist who would later refer me to Douglas Niedt who was chair of the classical guitar program at UMKC. I studied with Doug for five years. Since that time I've studied also with local jazz guitarist Danny Embrey and horn player Stan Kessler. Over time I found that the way I played the guitar and the way that I liked to hear it played was pianistic; I made the decision to learn the piano itself and began to study with Karen Kushner, professor of piano at UMKC. I now have over 12 years of teaching and performing experience with both instruments in a variety of different contexts, instructing beginner to advanced students in a variety of different stylistic contexts.

Music is a discipline. This is not to say that learning an instrument is by necessity arduous. The word "discipline" itself incorporates the idea of process; if you don't learn to enjoy this process instead of seeking the end result (such as "being good") then music is not for you. If you can apply yourself, however, the study of music can be a life changing experience. It is this process to which I suggest you apply yourself; results will come naturally out of it.

Depending upon the student's interest, I use a variety of different curriculum. Although the serious student of the instrument can benefit from a study of many different musical idioms I try to cater to the student's interest and level of development. A full curriculum list can be viewed on my website at <http://www.davideames.net>. My website also has a number of resources for students, including backing tracks, instructional videos, helpful articles and media examples. Although I transcribe music for my students I think that a vital component in becoming a musician involves learning to hear music on your own, arranging it and translating it into your instrumental voice.

- Payment for the month is due on or before the first lesson of each month. Extended leaves of absence (longer than one week) require you to pay the full months tuition in advance of the absence if it crosses from one month to another. For instance, if you are going to miss the last week of July and the first week of August, please pay for August before you leave.
- In the event of five lesson days in one month I will take one off. You will be notified in advance which day that will be.
- I do not prorate. No refunds or credits will be given for lessons you miss. If you miss a lesson you are still obligated to pay for it at the beginning of the month. I do give make-up lessons, which can be arranged in person, on the phone, or by emailing me. 24 hours notice (except in emergency situations) is required to qualify for a make-up lesson. A \$5.00 per week late fee for missed payments will be assessed starting on the second lesson of the month. I reserve the right to limit your makeup lessons if I feel the system is being abused.
- If I cancel your lesson and you've already paid me for it, I will credit you into the next month, unless we come to some other arrangement.

This said, I am fairly flexible in regards to scheduling; if you're finding it difficult to make your lesson on a regular basis, please let me know, as I can usually accommodate requests for flex-scheduling. I can be contacted via email at [david.eames@hotmail.com](mailto:david.eames@hotmail.com) or by phone at (816) 509-3156.

Thanks!

David Eames  
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