



Alice Freeman

Lever Harp • Hammered Dulcimer
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Hammered Dulcimer Lesson Information

Dear _____:

Welcome to an opportunity to learn the hammered dulcimer!

I will be prepared for your lesson and I expect you to be prepared also.

Each lesson you will need to bring:

1. Your hammered dulcimer, tuned and ready to play (for the first few months)
2. Your music
3. Your lesson notebook (a spiral bound notebook for recording lesson information)
4. A pencil
5. Your homework and/or worksheets as assigned in a 3-ring binder
6. Any questions you may have
7. Any suggestions for music you want to play

Financial Policies:

1. Fee per lesson is \$ _____ for 30 minutes. One hour lessons are \$ _____.
2. Fees are payable at the time of the lesson or payable in advance for each month's lesson(s).
3. In the event that you need to cancel, you may do so 24 hours in advance without penalty.
4. If you miss a lesson without cancelling 24 hours before your lesson time, you will pay for the missed lesson. Exceptions will be made to this policy in cases of inclement weather.
5. You may reschedule and make up one lesson a month.
6. If I forget your lesson, the next one is free.
7. There is no additional charge for worksheets provided by the instructor. However, legal copies of sheet music and published books are expected to be paid for by the student.
8. Checks may be made payable to "*Wind and Roses, LLC.*"

General Information:

1. After the first few months, you may use one of my hammered dulcimers for lessons, or bring your own if you wish.
2. Always make sure at the end of your lesson that your next lesson date and time is set.

3. You and I will decide together what music you want to learn. If you want to play a special tune, be sure to let me know. We can work on simplified versions until you are technically ready to play the original.
4. Try to play your hammered dulcimer every day. Practice if you can, but if you don't have time for a full practice, sit down and play one or two of your old tunes to stay in shape.
5. If you have any questions between lessons, feel free to call me or send me an email. I would rather answer a question now instead of having you wait in confusion until the next lesson.
6. If you have not had time to practice, I recommend coming to your lesson anyway so that you do not break the rhythm of your lessons. We can always find something to work on – sight-reading new music, learning a tune by ear, expression and interpretation, chording – there are many things we can do.
7. Do not be embarrassed if you have not practiced very much. We are all busy individuals, and our lives have hectic times now and then. If you are consistently unable to practice, maybe you should take a break for a month or two. Be aware of this, however. If you do not *promise* yourself to start again on a certain day, it may be a year or two before you get back to it.
8. Reminder to brand new students: Your friends may be thrilled that you are playing and will want to pressure you to perform immediately. Go ahead and play for one or two friends, but *please* do not commit yourself to playing concerts at parties and at church until you have had several months of lessons. Performing forces you to neglect technique and cope with *notes*, and will set you back almost to the beginning. Please *resist!*
9. It is helpful to bring a recording device to lessons so I can play new pieces for you to listen to at home.
10. I am always happy to play for you at the end of your lesson. Do not be shy about asking. It is important to see hammered dulcimer playing live; go to as many folk music concerts as you can if they have a hammered dulcimer.
11. At some point you will decide you have had enough lessons and will want to work on your own. When this happens, please do not just drift away; let me know, so that I will not wonder forever whether I have insulted you, or not met your needs, or leaned too hard on you, or whatever. The decision is a logical end to your lessons, whether you have taken for six months or many years, and you should celebrate your independence.
12. If you simply need a break from lessons, say so. It happens to everyone – we all become saturated. For my part, I need to know whether to keep your lesson time open or to schedule someone else.
13. If you want to be mostly independent, but check in every few months, do! I love to work with students on musical interpretation. You may also want a lesson or two before a big performance.

I welcome the opportunity to accompany you on your musical journey.

Sincerely,
Alice Freeman

Student Signature

Date