



## Bella Lingua Strings 2014-2015 School Year

**Website:** [www.BellaLinguaStrings.com](http://www.BellaLinguaStrings.com)

### **Contact Information:**

Katie Richardson

(817) 313-3033

[Katie@BellaLinguaStrings.com](mailto:Katie@BellaLinguaStrings.com)

### **Payment options:**

#### **1. Pay-per-month:**

30 minute weekly lessons: \$90 per month\*

45 minute weekly lessons: \$135 per month\*

60 minute weekly lessons: \$180 per month\*

\* If you choose the pay-per-month payment option, please note that the monthly rate stays the same regardless of the number of lessons in that particular month. Payments due will not shift more or less, whether it is a month with 5 lessons or 3 lessons.

#### **2. Semester payments** (2 payments for the September-May school year. First payment is due in September. Second payment is due in February):

##### • **First payment**

30 minute weekly lessons September-January payment: \$425 (save \$25)

45 minute weekly lessons September-January payment: \$635 (save \$40)

60 minute weekly lessons September-January payment: \$850 (save \$50)

##### • **Second Payment**

30 minute weekly lessons February-May payment: \$335 (save \$25)

45 minute weekly lessons February-May payment: \$500 (save \$40)

60 minute weekly lessons February-May payment: \$670 (save \$50)

To aid in efficiency and organization, please have your payment turned in by the **10<sup>th</sup> of the month in which it is due. If payment is late, please include a \$5 late fee**

If you need to mail the payment, it must be postmarked **no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month in which it is due.**

**If payment is late, please include a \$5 late fee:**

Katie Richardson

616 Robindale Court

Bedford, Texas 76022

A \$25 fee will be charged for returned checks.

### **Student lesson:**

1. The Lesson will begin and end at the appointed time.
2. If the student arrives late, the lesson time will not be extended, but will end as scheduled. Once 10 minutes of your lesson time has passed, I will assume you are not coming.
3. Please be on time. Arriving no more than five minutes prior to your lesson time will allow you to quietly unpack your instrument outside the teaching room in order to insure that we can begin promptly.

4. Parents, if your student is younger than high school age, I would greatly appreciate **your presence during the child's lesson**. Your knowledge of, and attention to, assignments and practice skills will greatly aid your child in his/her home practice and will insure that you receive the best return for your investment.
5. Parents, if you drop off your older students, please return for them on time.
6. Please, do not bring food or drinks (other than water) to lessons for the student, other siblings, or adults.

**Illness:** Please do not bring a child who is ill or running a fever. I reserve the right to abstain from teaching a student I believe to be sick, as I must do my best to remain well in order to meet my teaching obligations and protect the health of my students. Please call me as soon as possible if you know your child must miss a lesson due to illness.

**Absences due to Illness or Emergency:** Please call me as soon as possible if you know you must cancel a lesson due to illness or emergency. If there is availability, the decision to give a make-up lesson for a lesson missed due to illness or emergency will be made by me on a case-by-case basis. **No refunds will be given.** Your promptness in notifying me as early as possible of your upcoming absence is most appreciated. If you fail to give me proper notice of your absence, you forfeit consideration for a make-up lesson.

**All other absences:** Parents, if you need to cancel a lesson, please call my cell phone at (817) 313-3033, and leave a message as early as possible. **No refunds or make-ups will be given for these absences.**

**Termination of Lessons:** Should you determine that you will be stopping your regularly scheduled lessons, please plan to give me at least one month of notice before stopping. This allows me to have time to fill your spot. If you should need to stop immediately, payment for one month will still be due.

### Materials:

1. **Instrument (instrument, bow, and case):** May be rented or purchased, but keep in mind that children grow and change instrument sizes fairly often—renting may be the simplest. When considering an instrument to purchase, please let me help you determine if it is a good instrument by bringing it to a lesson for me to look at before purchasing. I want to help you be sure you are getting a quality instrument.
2. **Shoulder rest or shoulder pad (sponge). Please, consult with me on which style will work best for you student.**
3. **Rosin**
4. **Suzuki book and recording**
5. **Tuner/metronome** (There are now apps that allow an iPhone to be used as a tuner/metronome)
6. **Notebook:** Parent should take lesson notes to aid in home practice. If the student is high school age or above they should be able to jot down their own lesson notes.
7. **I Can Read Music Book 1 (for beginning students only—more advanced students may be asked to purchase another note reading book)**
8. Occasionally, additional items may be required at the request of the teacher.

**NOTE:** Stores where you can purchase/rent good quality student instruments and purchase materials are **Young Musicians (best quality, in my opinion), Mr. E's, Music&Arts, and ABS (in Arlington)**. I would **highly suggest** you purchase/rent the instrument from one of these locations, so that you know you are getting a good quality instrument. Please **do not** purchase an instrument from eBay, Craigslist, or other such websites. While such websites may appear to offer good deals, often the instrument you will get will be of such poor quality you will have to spend additional money having it worked on and made play-able (And even then, it may be far less than satisfactory). If you have a question about other dealers beyond these I've mentioned, please talk with me and get approval before purchasing from that vendor.

**Listening:** Listening to the Suzuki recording is extremely important; **students must listen 1 hour daily to the entire book recording in order to make optimal progress**. Remember, the more listening, the faster the progress! Music study is akin to language study. The best way to study a new language is through immersion; likewise when the student listens to his music, he is learning. Music students will play with better sound, learn and memorize pieces faster, and progress more quickly if listening is emphasized.

**Practicing:** The assigned materials should be practiced on a daily basis (6 days a week) as assigned by the teacher. Parents should use their own notes taken during the lesson as a guide to practice at home. Students younger than high school age should have parents present during practice sessions— younger students need parental guidance in order to insure the material is properly covered and that good positioning habits are re-enforced. Please plan on daily involvement in your student’s practice and listening time. **Parents, you are vital to your student’s musical success!**

**Group Class:** Group Class attendance is required. Christina Leano teaches the weekly group classes in North Richland Hills on Thursday evenings. Cost is \$65 per semester. Parents are expected to attend group class with their student. You may enroll your student in group class by e-mailing Ms. Leano: [cleano@udallas.edu](mailto:cleano@udallas.edu)

**Recital:** I would like for all students to plan on participating in scheduled recitals (one will be held in the fall and one in the spring). Recitals are wonderful opportunities for students to display their hard work and progress. Each student will be accompanied by a pianist. The pianist will charge a separate \$20 rehearsal fee which covers one rehearsal and the performance.

**Important dates:**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Recital:**

**Piano Rehearsal**—Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 3:00-9:00 p.m.

**Recital**—Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Recital:**

**Piano Rehearsal**— TBD

**Recital**— TBD

**No Lessons on the Following Days\***

Labor Day: **September 1**

**October 13-14**

Thanksgiving Vacation: **November 26-29**

Christmas Vacation: **December 22-January 3**

Texas Music Educators Association Conference: **February 11-14**

Spring Break: **March 9-14**

**March 25-28**

Memorial Day: **May 25**

\*List subject to change. Lessons falling on these days will not be made up.

Please check my website: [www.BellaLinguaStrings.com](http://www.BellaLinguaStrings.com) for possible schedule changes and/or additional information during the year.

**Summer Institutes:**

**Participation in a summer music institute can be incredibly beneficial for students of all ages. I highly recommend that all families seriously consider this and if possible, plan ahead to attend an institute over the summer. We, in the DFW, area are blessed to have an outstanding Suzuki Institute right in our backyard: DFW WOW Suzuki Institute <http://www.dfwwow.com/>**

**There are many other institutes held around the country as well. Please, let me know if you would like help in locating an institute in another location.**

**Parent's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_