

David Andrew Boyd

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Voice and Guitar Studio Policies

Knoxville Location for Lessons: 1300 Highland Drive in the Fountain City area of Knoxville TN – Parking is behind the house or in the grass off Seminole drive. Please come in the front entrance of the house. If you are early you may come on in and wait in the living room for the prior student to finish.

Greenville Location for Lessons: Trinity United Methodist Church, 524 Tusculum Blvd. Lessons will be held in the choir room which is downstairs, below the sanctuary. The closest entrance is either door on the West end of the building. There is a possibility of lessons in Mosheim at 70 Glendale Drive if that is more convenient.

Safe Sanctuaries Policy: Any student under 18 must be accompanied by an adult for the lesson. This is in compliance with the Safe Sanctuaries Policy set in place for the protection of all concerned by the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Cost of Lessons: \$20 per half hour lesson to be paid monthly at the first lesson of the month. New students may pay weekly for the first month of lessons to determine if it is a good fit for them. After that a typical month would have 4 lessons for a total of \$80 per month. Occasionally the calendar falls such that there would be 5 lessons for a total of \$100 per month.

Absences: Lessons missed for scheduled vacations, etc. will be deducted from the monthly total if notified one month in advance as long as such absences are not excessive. Lessons missed due to sudden illness or other unforeseen circumstances cannot be made up or refunded. However, notification of sudden absences is greatly appreciated when at all possible. Due to scheduling constraints late arrival for lessons will simply mean a shorter lesson.

Practice: Beginning students should practice at least 30 minutes per day, six days per week. Beginning guitar students should break this into two 15 minute periods for the first few weeks until the fingertips get used to the pressure of the strings. Daily practice is important. Last minute marathon practices can actually be harmful! If on a particular day the schedule gets really hectic at least go through 10 minutes of warm up exercises so as to not go backwards.

Lesson Materials: Some basic materials for warm ups and initial lessons will be provided by the instructor, some of which will be available for download on the instructor's website. However, purchase of sheet music, accompaniment tracks, songbooks, etc. is the responsibility of the student. <http://www.musicnotes.com> is a good resource for print on demand music and has a downloadable player which can provide accompaniment for voice students. Additionally, karaoke tracks for vocal students can often be found on <http://www.youtube.com/> Other resource links are available on the instructor's website. Each student should purchase a notebook and a number of sheet protector sleeves to keep their lesson materials organized.

Guitars: Students must have an acoustic guitar that is in good playable condition. Nylon string guitars are greatly preferred, especially for beginners as they are much easier on the fingers, but steel string guitars may be used if it is a one of the brands with a slightly wider neck which is preferable for fingerpicking, such as Taylor, Seagull, etc. which have 1-3/4" necks. Instruction will be giving both in using a flatpick and in traditional fingerpicking as well as classical technique, so an instrument is needed that will lend itself to all of these styles.