

DR. LARKIN E. SANDERS

CLARINETIST | COMPOSER | TEACHER | ADMINISTRATOR

larkin@cleverclarinetist.com

www.larkinesanders.com | www.cleverclarinetist.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Lesson Policies and Agreement

PHILOSOPHY

The benefits of music are boundless. Music and the arts are essential components of a well-rounded education, contributing to individual growth, enriching local economies, and serving as powerful catalysts for social change. As universal languages, the arts transcend cultural and linguistic barriers, preserving traditions while fostering connection and understanding. Teaching any art form, particularly music, is both a profound responsibility and an extraordinary privilege.

As a music educator, I strive to cultivate a nurturing environment that inspires creativity, encourages self-expression, and promotes critical thinking and collaboration. My goal is to instill discipline while fostering a sense of joy and discovery, empowering students to explore their unique musical voices.

In instrumental lessons, I focus on sound production and the development of each student's individual artistic identity. By emphasizing foundational techniques such as breath control, effective practice habits, proper equipment selection, active listening, and imaginative phrasing, students are equipped to achieve their full potential as musicians. I also prioritize fostering camaraderie within the studio, encouraging students to build lifelong networks and friendships. This sense of community enhances the supportive environment where students thrive together.

Similarly, my approach to teaching composition centers on nurturing a composer's distinct voice and style. I encourage collaborative creation, urging composers to work closely with performers to develop engaging, viable works that resonate with both musicians and audiences. Additionally, I challenge my students to explore new avenues of music-making, fostering innovation and expanding their creative horizons.

In the classroom, I aim to spark curiosity and inspire critical and creative thinking through a multifaceted approach to academic courses. In music theory classes, I guide students to ask probing questions—Why is this piece beautiful? Why does it sound dissonant or unusual?—so they can analyze music with depth and gain a richer appreciation for its artistry. Music history courses emphasize understanding the context in which composers lived and worked, providing essential insight into the music we perform and study.

In arts administration, entrepreneurship, and music business courses, I focus on the intersection of art and community, underscoring the role of musicians as community builders. Students learn to balance the needs of performers and audiences, fostering connections that transform arts organizations into thriving, dynamic cultural hubs.

Ultimately, my mission as an educator is to empower students to embrace their creativity, hone their craft, and contribute meaningfully to their communities through the transformative power of music and the arts.

POLICIES FOR PRIVATE LESSONS

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all scheduled lessons, and students should arrive on time and be prepared to begin immediately. Parents and siblings are welcome to observe quietly but should avoid distractions. Food and beverages, except for water, are not permitted in the studio.

1. Cancellation Policy:
 - a. More than 24 hours in advance: No charge.
 - b. Less than 24 hours in advance: Full cancellation fee applies.
2. Emergency Exceptions:
 - a. Emergencies such as medical or family crises are exempt from cancellation fees. Non-emergency situations like scheduling conflicts, social events, or lack of motivation are not covered under this policy.
3. Illness Policy:
 - a. Do not attend in-person lessons if unwell. Online lessons can be arranged via Zoom.
 - b. If a student arrives sick, the lesson will be dismissed without a refund.
4. Inclimate Weather
 - a. In-person lessons will shift online to ensure safety.
 - b. Online lessons will proceed as usual.

SCHEDULING & CANCELATIONS

1. Lessons may be scheduled through cleverclarinetist.com/lessons on either a one-time (ad hoc) or recurring basis.
 - a. Recurring lessons (weekly, biweekly, or monthly) are available on weekdays only and must be reserved by selecting "Buy a Plan" at the time of booking.
 - b. Weekend lessons may be booked individually but cannot be scheduled on a recurring basis due to the instructor's performance schedule.
 - c. All lessons are subject to rescheduling or cancellation, particularly weekend appointments that may conflict with performances.
 - d. For details on cancellations and rescheduling, please refer to the Cancellation Policy above.
2. Lessons can be scheduled via cleverclarinetist.com/lessons and may occur on an ad hoc or recurring basis.
 - a. Recurring lessons are only available on weekdays.
 - b. Lessons are subject to rescheduling or cancellation, especially weekend lessons that conflict with the instructor's performance schedule.
3. Recurring lessons are held weekly unless alternate arrangements are made. Consistent scheduling is key to progress and maintaining my availability.
4. Students should arrive to lessons on-time. If the student is at least 10 minutes late, the lesson is canceled with a 100% cancellation fee.
5. Rescheduling is allowed occasionally, but frequent changes are discouraged.
6. If taking time off for holidays or other reasons, notify me in advance.
7. To discontinue regular lessons, provide one month's notice. Ideally, students should complete major projects (e.g., auditions or festivals) before stopping lessons.

8. Repeated cancellations, even under emergency circumstances, may require a reevaluation of the student's commitment to lessons.
9. Make-up lessons will be offered only for cancellations made at least 24 hours in advance, subject to my availability.
 - a. No more than two make-up lessons will be offered per semester.
10. Students are expected to maintain a regular lesson schedule year-round. If a student needs to take a seasonal break, please provide at least one month's notice.
 - a. Lesson spots will not be reserved during breaks and will be made available to other students.
11. In-person lessons will occasionally shift online, depending on availability and the teacher's performance schedule outside the Kansas City area. Students should be prepared for a hybrid lesson model, where some lessons may shift online as needed.

CURRICULUM

Lesson plans are tailored to individual student goals, balancing:

1. Fundamentals: Scales, thirds, arpeggios, etc.
2. Etudes/Melodic Exercises
3. Repertoire: Solo and ensemble literature

Students are encouraged to participate in at least one recital, festival, or competition annually. I will assist in preparing pieces for these events, but consistent attendance and practice are necessary to ensure readiness.

STUDENT PREPARATION

Students must practice consistently to meet their goals:

1. Beginners: 30–45 minutes/day, 5 days/week (60 minutes/day preferred).
2. Advanced Students: 60–120 minutes/day, 6-7 days/week.

Unprepared students may be dismissed early without a refund. Use this rubric to assess preparation:

	Excellent (A)	Good (B)	Mediocre (C)	Poor (D)	Unacceptable (F)
Practice	Well-prepared on all assignments and practiced the required amount.	Prepared all assignments, but may have taken multiple days off. Practiced $\frac{3}{4}$ of required time.	Did not prepare all assignments and only practiced $\frac{1}{2}$ of the required time.	Did not prepare all assignments and practiced less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of required time.	Hardly practiced (less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of required time) or did not practice at all.
Progress	Lots of progress learning new repertoire	Progress on all assignments with some struggles	Little progress. Few notable improvements from previous	Little to no progress. No notable improvements	No progress. Possible regression.

			lessons.	from previous lessons.	
Endurance	Easily plays through the lesson and is eager to improve.	Plays through the lesson but may have less capacity.	Struggles to play for the entire lesson.	Cannot play for the entire lesson.	Little to no endurance.
Retention	Few or no mistakes are made, and tempos are appropriate for progress.	Occasionally struggles to read music and makes some mistakes.	Struggles to read music and is frequently derailed during performance.	Struggles to read music and may require remedial help.	Cannot read music and requires remedial help.
Sound	Best possible sound with a well-adjusted instrument and reed.	A good sound with a well-adjusted instrument and reed.	Not making their best sound. Instrument and reed may be in poor quality and/or adjustment.	Struggles to make a sound. Instrument and reed are likely in poor quality and/or adjustment.	Sound is undesirable or nonexistent. Instrument and reed are in poor quality and/or adjustment.

PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS

Parents play a critical role in supporting their child's progress. This includes:

1. Encouraging consistent practice.
2. Assisting with time management.
3. Ensuring the student has necessary materials.

Parents are encouraged to touch base with me at least once a month to discuss their child's progress, upcoming events, and any concerns. Regular communication ensures we're working together to achieve the student's goals.

MATERIALS

Students must bring the following to every lesson:

1. A fully functioning clarinet and accessories.
2. Adequate supply of reeds (10 minimum, 20 ideal).
3. Assigned sheet music and method books.

Failing to bring required materials may result in a modified lesson (e.g., scales and aural skills).

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT AND BOOKS

Materials should be chosen with my guidance and approval. Please refrain from purchasing expensive equipment without expert knowledge as it is easy to make bad investments. Below, you will find a list of suitable books and equipment that I recommend.

Studies:

Hite, Intermediate Studies
Hite, Progressive Studies
Rose, *32 Etudes*
Rose, *40 Etudes*
Klose *Method for Clarinet*
Sanders, *Daily Scale Method*
Denny-Chambers, *Finger Fitness Etudes*

Applications:

Tunable
Practice+
Tonal Energy
Time Guru
The Amazing Slow Downer
Register - Clarinet
Fingerings

Equipment:

D'Addario Reserve
OR Reserve Classic Reeds
D'Addario Reserve Mouthpiece
(X0, X5, X10, Evolution, etc.)
Brian Corbin Barrels
Selmer Paris Clarinets
Backun Musical Services Clarinets
Royal Global Clarinets

For online lessons, students must ensure they have a reliable internet connection, a quiet environment, and a suitable device (laptop, desktop, or tablet) with a working microphone (external microphone preferred) and camera. Lessons missed due to technical issues on the student's end will not be refunded or made up. All online lessons are conducted over Zoom with Original Sound enabled.

CODE OF CONDUCT

To maintain a respectful and focused learning environment, all students are expected to:

1. Be kind, courteous, and respectful at all times.
2. Follow instructions and remain attentive during lessons.
3. Maintain a positive attitude and be open to feedback.
4. Refrain from disruptive, disrespectful, or inappropriate behavior.
5. Treat the teacher, space, and equipment with care.

Students who do not adhere to this code may be dismissed from lessons at the instructor's discretion.

PAYMENT

Payments are due in advance of each lesson. A \$10 late fee will be applied to payments not received within 7 days of the due date. Consistent late payments will result in suspension of lessons.

1. Rates: \$60/hour, \$50/45 minutes, \$40/30 minutes.
2. Lessons must be prepaid via cash, credit card, or check.

AGREEMENT

First Lesson (date, time, duration)

Instrument Selection Day

Required Music

Regular Lesson Day

Regular Lesson Time

Regular Lesson Frequency

Regular Lesson Duration

Regular Lesson Fee

Amount Expected to Pay per Lesson

First Payment Due

Regular Payments Due

I, _____ agree to the policies for clarinet lessons provided by Larkin Sanders and to abide by the selected regular lesson day, time, frequency, duration, and fees as applied to the chart above.

By enrolling in lessons with Clever Clarinetist, LLC, the student (and parent/guardian, if applicable) agrees to the following:

I understand that participation in music lessons involves physical activity (such as posture correction, breath work, and hand coordination), and I voluntarily assume any risks associated with participation.

I release Clever Clarinetist, LLC and Dr. Larkin Sanders from any liability for injuries or accidents that may occur before, during, or after lessons, whether in person or online.

I acknowledge that in-person lessons may occur in a home studio or other private location. I accept all risks related to entering and participating in activities in that space.

I understand that it is my responsibility to inform the instructor of any relevant medical conditions, allergies, or accessibility needs prior to the start of lessons.

For students under 18, I acknowledge that I am the legal parent/guardian and give permission for my child to participate in lessons under the terms outlined above.

Student/Guardian

Larkin E. Sanders

HOW TO APPROACH DAILY PRACTICING

RATIONALE

Music is often called the “universal language,” and like any language, it relies on a strong grasp of its fundamentals—the “alphabet” of our craft. Daily practice is the key to mastery, enabling musicians to set aside fears of technical failure and focus on what truly matters: making beautiful music.

A consistent practice routine that incorporates fundamental exercises can transform your playing, making technique second nature and freeing you to express yourself artistically. This guide is designed to simplify the process and help musicians of all levels build a strong foundation for success.

ENVIRONMENT

Your practice space plays a critical role in your progress. Aim for a location that is:

1. **Distraction-free:** Minimize interruptions and external noise.
2. **Well-lit:** Good lighting prevents eye strain and helps with clear visualization of your technique.
3. **Comfortable:** Use a sturdy, height-adjustable chair and music stand to encourage good posture.
4. **Equipped:** A full-length mirror allows you to observe your embouchure, hand position, and posture.

For digital materials, consider using a foot pedal to turn pages hands-free.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

A great teacher!

The Ridenour Fingering Guide

A metronome and tuner or smartphone application

A full-length mirror

A good chair that encourages good posture

A good music stand (I recommend Manhasset products)

LONG TONES

Begin your practice with long tones to establish focus, improve sound quality, and develop breath control:

1. Set your metronome to 40-60 BPM.
2. Breathe deeply, then sustain a note for 20 beats: crescendo for 10 beats, decrescendo for the next 10.
3. Repeat with at least six different notes, moving through various registers of your instrument.

This exercise fosters creativity and connection to your sound. Explore different patterns or create your own sequences.

NOTE BENDS

Improving flexibility and control is vital for navigating challenging repertoire and extended techniques. Start on a comfortable note (e.g., a high G for clarinetists):

1. Gradually bend the pitch down and return to the original note.
2. Expand the bend incrementally, aiming for up to a perfect fifth.
3. Practice at varied speeds to enhance precision and voicing awareness.

SCALES, THIRDS, APREGGIOS, AND PHRASING

Scales and arpeggios are the foundation of technical fluency:

1. **Breathe and phrase:** Play through a key in one breath, land on the tonic of the next key, pause briefly, and continue.
2. **Altissimo:** Slow down for challenging notes, ensuring accuracy and intonation.
3. **Articulations:** Practice scales slurred first, then explore varied articulations for added challenge.

For arpeggios and thirds, focus on completing each exercise in one breath. These should serve as definitive building blocks for technique and phrasing.

ARTICULATION BURSTS

Improve clarity and speed with articulation exercises:

1. Select one pattern per day and transpose it through all keys.
2. Practice at two tempos: one comfortable, the other challenging.
3. Create your own burst patterns to keep the routine engaging.

SELECTING TEMPOS FOR SUCCESS

Progress is built through consistent, deliberate effort. Begin technical exercises at a tempo that allows for flawless execution. Increase the metronome by no more than 1–2 BPM per day.

1. For general exercises, start at 60 BPM.
2. Once mastered, increase gradually to a speed that is comfortable yet efficient for your warm-up (e.g., 100 BPM).
3. Occasionally practice without a metronome to encourage musical flexibility and rubato.

REEDS

This book is ideal for breaking in reeds. I recommend spending two weeks on breaking in reeds to ensure that you can get the most playing time. Make sure that you continue to play your long tones with a well-adjusted reed. You may, of course, take from this method what you will, but I recommend this timing (at quarter note = 100 BPM):

	Long Tones	Scales	Arpeggios	Thirds
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Week 1		1 key per reed		
Week 2		4 keys per reed	6 keys per reed	
Week 3 and on	1 reed	1 reed	1 reed	1 reed

RENTAL TERMS

Clever Clarinetist, LLC will retain full title and ownership of this instrument until the renter has made the total of the payments necessary to acquire ownership. I agree not to sell, mortgage or otherwise dispose of this instrument during the rental period. I understand that this rental may be terminated if I move and fail to provide Clever Clarinetist, LLC with a new address, or if my child changes schools. If this rental is terminated, I will return the instrument and any accessories, in good condition to Clever Clarinetist or authorized agent immediately.

Clarinet lessons must be used in the first 2 months of the rental contract. After the first two months of the contract, there will be a fee for private lessons.

RETURN OPTION

I may return the instrument at any time and this agreement is terminated, provided the instrument is in good condition, reasonable wear and tear excepted, and provided monthly payments are current. Should the student discontinue the music program, I will return the instrument at once. This will save additional charges since the rent continues until Clever Clarinetist has received the instrument. (CALL Clever Clarinetist AT 816-654-6145 FOR RETURN INSTRUCTIONS.)

LATE PAYMENTS/RETURNED CHECKS

A Late Payment Charge of 1.8% will be assessed for payments not made within ten (10) days of the date payment is due. Any returned checks will be debited from your account electronically for the face amount of the check plus a fee of \$20 to \$50, according to state law. Any returned automatic payments will be debited from your account electronically for the payment amount plus a fee of \$20 to \$50, according to state law. In the event that the automatic payment is declined twice, the rental account will be placed into repossession, and collection action will be taken and an additional \$5 per month processing fee will be applied to any automatic payments processed.

DEFAULT

If I fail to make a payment within thirty (30) days of the time required by this agreement or fail to observe any other covenant of the contract, breach of what materially impairs the condition, value or protection of Clever Clarinetist, LLC's rights in the instrument, or materially impairs my prospects to pay the amounts due, I will be in default. Upon my default, and after any notice required by law to be given, Clever Clarinetist will be entitled to any remedies by law, including repossession of the instrument. Clever Clarinetist reserves the right to take possession of it peacefully wherever it is found, at school, or elsewhere. (If the instrument is repossessed, a \$50.00 - \$100.00 pick-up fee will be assessed)

SERVICE PROTECTION PLAN

- A. Repair service by Clever Clarinetist is provided on the rented instrument due to normal wear and maintenance of the instrument to keep it in good playing condition. This service excludes the finish and damage resulting from willful or careless mistreatment. Supplies such as oils, reeds, drum sticks, etc. are not included. ANY REPAIRS ON RENTED INSTRUMENTS MUST BE PERFORMED BY CLEVER CLARINETIST or PEAK PERFORMANCE WOODWINDS.
- B. Physical damage including fire and theft – In the event that your instrument is stolen or destroyed during the rental period, Clever Clarinetist will replace the instrument with one of equal value, age, and condition provided you have reported the incident to the proper authorities and furnish Clever Clarinetist with a copy of that report, along with a written claim giving us the details of the loss.
- C. In order for maintenance and repair to be provided, the rental payments must be current.

CONSENT

I hereby consent to Clever Clarinetist, LLC to communicate with my spouse in connection with this transaction and the collection of the debt evidenced hereby.

ANY HOLDER OF THIS CONSUMER CREDIT CONTRACT IS SUBJECT TO ALL CLAIMS AND DEFENSES WHICH THE DEBTOR COULD ASSERT AGAINST THE LESSOR. RECOVERY HEREUNDER SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNTS PAID BY THE DEBTOR HEREUNDER. IF LESSEE FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY, THE INSTRUMENT MUST BE RETURNED AS IT IS PROPERTY OF CLEVER CLARINETIST.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

SAFE, SECURE SHOPPING

You can rest assured that your shopping experience at Clever Clarinetist is 100% safe and secure. We take every precaution to protect your sensitive information.

MY PRIVACY POLICY

I AM 100% committed to respecting your privacy. At various places throughout our website, you are asked to provide information. I will not sell, share, or rent your personal information to others in any way.

EMAIL

Clever Clarinetist uses email to keep you informed of new products, sales, and specials that we think you should know about. When you make your first order or request, your email address is added to our file and you will receive the next email update published. At the bottom of each message will be instructions on how to unsubscribe. We hope that you find value in the services we provide, and we hope to stay in touch with you using this method. Your email address is never shared with outside parties.

COOKIES

A cookie is a data file containing information that relates directly to your visit to our web site. We use cookies to maintain your shopping cart items and login information. Your browser must accept cookies to place an order. Generally, browsers accept cookies by default. However, you may need to change your settings to enable cookies if you're experiencing problems in the ordering process.

The total of scheduled payments means the total dollar amount of rental payments you will have to make to own the instrument. This total does NOT include ADDITIONAL CHARGES which might be made during the agreement such as service protection plan and late payment charges. See the remainder of the contract for an explanation of these charges.

NOTICE TO LESSEE – READ BEFORE SIGNING

- A. Do not agree to this before you read the entire agreement even if otherwise advised.
- B. Do not agree if this form contains blank spaces.
- C. You are entitled to an exact copy of any agreement you sign.
- D. If you choose the early buy-out option, this may result in a reduction of your total cost to acquire ownership. If you buy-out early, you will pay the retail price less all rental fees paid, less 10% of your remaining balance. (Rental fees paid DO NOT include Service Protection Plan fees, late charges, or any handling fees.)