

Amy B. Syversen

Band Director and Private Trumpet Teacher
5673-102 Columbia Road • Columbia, Maryland 21044
301-661-6654 • amy_syversen@hcpss.org • www.amybejm.com

Private Trumpet Lesson Contract

This document contains important information about my professional services and business policies. Please read this information carefully and ask about any information that you do not fully understand. Once you sign this document, it is a binding agreement between us.

Benefits of Private Trumpet Lessons:

Private trumpet lessons are most beneficial for three types of students: (1) Students who are highly motivated and/or excel on the trumpet and who are looking to enrich their trumpet playing and perform at a competitive level; (2) Students who have never played the trumpet before and would like to learn how to play the trumpet; (3) Students who enjoy playing the trumpet, but are either struggling in band at school or are behind in band at school for whatever reason and want to improve their playing. Some benefits of private trumpet lessons include, but are not limited to:

- Find fun and satisfaction through music
- Gain a sense of accomplishment
- Improve your knowledge and skills
- Learn responsibility
- Clear up misconceptions
- Solve technical difficulties
- Learn how to practice the correct way
- Learn how to solve problems in general
- Cope with frustrations and anxiety
- Develop concentration
- Actively use both sides of the brain
- Experience to help guide you in your trumpet playing

Background Information:

Amy Bejm Syversen has been a freelance trumpet player and trumpet instructor for over ten years. Mrs. Syversen has been teaching elementary school band in Howard County, MD since 2004. Mrs. Syversen is a December 2008 summa cum laude graduate of the Peabody Conservatory where she earned her Masters of Music Education degree. Mrs. Syversen is a May 2004 summa cum laude graduate of Salisbury University where she achieved her Bachelor of Arts in Music with a K-12 Concentration in Education. While at Salisbury University Mrs. Syversen was president of her local MENC: The National Association for Music Education Chapter 416 as well as principal trumpet for the University's Wind Ensemble, Brass Quintet, and Jazz Ensemble, member of the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra on both trumpet and french horn, member of the Youth Symphony Orchestra on french horn, member of the Classical Guitar Ensemble on guitar as well as performer on trumpet and french horn for the University's choirs. While attending Salisbury University Mrs. Syversen was awarded numerous awards including: the Presidential Scholarship, Hope Scholarship, Nettie C. Bentley Scholarship, Guerrieri University Center Award for Music, Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges and (NAIBM): MENC National Instrumental Teacher Grant. Mrs. Syversen is a former

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graduate of Atholton High School and Hammond Middle School in Howard County where she was principal trumpet and participated in many prestigious groups. Mrs. Syversen was also a member of the Howard County Middle School All-County Band, Howard County Youth Orchestra, two-time member (once as principal trumpet) of the Maryland All-State Junior Band and two time member (once as principal trumpet) of the Maryland All-State Senior Band. Mrs. Syversen has been invited to perform as guest soloist around the state of Maryland as well as with other groups such as Barry Manilow's orchestra. Mrs. Syversen was also invited to guest conduct the Virginia All-Shore Band in 2006.

Policies:

1. I teach trumpet lessons at my studio located at 9492 Glen Ridge Drive Laurel, MD 20723.
 - a. Please park on the street
 - b. Parents are welcome to stay during the lesson. If you choose to stay, please remove your shoes before entering and feel free to relax in the room to your left as you enter the house.
2. ***If your child misses a lesson, either planned or unplanned, please include that lesson's cost in the next week's payment.*** Also, I would appreciate your notifying me either in advance of that day by phone 301.661.6654 or email amy_syversen@hcpss.org, or if the absence will be on the same day as the lesson, by phone through either a call or a text message.
 - a. ***The only missed lessons permissible without payment will be for those related to a school performance or concert.***
 - b. If for any reason I have to cancel my lessons, no payment is expected. I believe you will find that my rates are competitive compared to those of local music stores and other teachers in the Howard County area.
3. If you are unexpectedly running late for your lesson please call me on my cell phone at 301.661.6654 so I know that you are on your way. Because lessons are scheduled back to back I will most likely not be able to make up missed lesson times that day and will still require full lesson payment.
4. Lessons are a time to clean musicianship and technical abilities; they are NOT practice time. When a student is unprepared for a lesson, they will not be able to progress, and if this happens frequently it becomes very frustrating for both the student and myself. Every once in a while things come up and a student will be unable to prepare for that week's lesson and that is okay when it happens on an infrequent basis. If frequently the student has not been able to practice properly, I will most likely have the student discontinue his or her lessons with me. Your time and money is valuable and I do not feel comfortable taking your money and time if I am unable to give a proper lesson due to lack of preparation.

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Levels:

After the first lesson, I will place the student in a level. The levels consist of Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. Generally speaking, students with less than one year of experience playing will be considered Beginner, students between 2-5 years of playing will be Intermediate, and students with more than 5 years playing experience will be Advanced. There will be exceptions. I will place the student at the level I feel will be most beneficial to them.

Lesson Times and Costs:

Beginners will have a 30-minute lesson for \$30

Intermediates will have a 45-minute lesson for \$35

Advanced will have a 60-minute lesson for \$40

I accept cash or check and I charge an additional \$5 for lessons in which I travel to students' homes to teach

Materials:

After the first lesson and from time to time, I will give you a list of materials the student needs to obtain. The sooner the materials are purchased, the better. I will expect the student to be prepared with those materials by the next lesson and by no later than the second lesson after the material request is made. Every student will have at least one method book to work out of. I will let you know which books after the first lesson. Finally, most students will also have solos to work on. Every student should also have a notebook. I will write in the notebook things to practice and comments for improvement.

Here is a preliminary list, in case you want to get a head start. Every student **MUST** have a metronome:

- Metronome – If you are not practicing with a metronome you are not practicing properly!
- Notebook or journal to keep track of lesson progress
- Wire Music Stand (*for home use, do not bring to lesson*)
- Instrument and mouthpiece in good playing condition – most beginners should be playing on a Bach size 7C mouthpiece and most intermediate and advanced students should be playing on a Bach size 3C mouthpiece (please discuss mouthpieces with me before purchasing one if you do not already have one)
- Two pencils with erasers stored in your instrument case
- Three-ring binder (any size) to keep track of lesson materials and notebook – I can provide a folder to any student who does not wish to purchase a binder
- One bottle of Al Cass Brand Piston Valve Oil
- Tuning slide grease
- Soft cloth for cleaning
- Mouthpiece brush

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Practicing:

This is your weekly homework. I expect you to practice every day. If music is important to you, you will find time to practice every day. Beginners should practice 30 minutes each day. Intermediates should practice 45 minutes each day. Advanced should practice 75 minutes each day. These are minimum requirements. Can you practice more? Absolutely! Do you need to practice this much all in one sitting? No. Practice for 30 minutes, take a break, do some homework, hang out with friends, and then come back and practice another 15-30 minutes. We will discuss proper practicing during our lessons.

Contacting Me:

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Here are the best ways to reach me:

E-mail – amy_syversen@hcpss.org

Cell phone – 301-661-6654

Webpage – www.amybejm.com

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Authorization/Agreement:

By signing this contract, you agree that you have reviewed this information and agree to these conditions.

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Please fill out the following information:

Student's Name _____

Mother's/Guardian's Name _____

Father's/Guardian's Name _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address (very important for communication and updates) _____

Student's Birthday _____

Student's School _____