



McGee  
Violin & Viola  
Studio

2026 Studio  
Info Packet

Mrs. Jorrie McGee

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- What is the vision?
  - I aspire to awaken a deep passion for music in my students. I have frequently said that the reason I wanted to become a teacher is because I love watching for and causing what I call “the lightbulb moment”. It’s when a student’s face lights up from within when they suddenly understand the concept I have been teaching. I believe that once the student gets a well-fostered, truly understood taste of that moment, the momentum to keep learning will become self-perpetuating.
- How old do I have to be to take lessons?
  - However old you want! I began taking violin when I was 9 years old, and I have heard of 1- and 2-year-olds taking violin lessons. I would personally prefer it if your beginner student was somewhere around 6 or 7, but I will take them as young as the parent or student desires to begin. It is never too early (or too late!) To learn an instrument!
- How long are lessons?
  - The lesson length is going to vary based on how advanced the student is. Beginner lessons are 30 minutes, intermediate lessons increase to 45 minutes, and advanced becomes 60 minutes/1 hour.
- Where do we meet for lessons? What are your hours?
  - My studio space is on the north end of Colorado Springs at Research and Powers, near Liberty High School. I teach from 4:30 - 6:30 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

- When you bring your student to lesson, please park on the street. **DO NOT park in the driveway**, as the homeowners come home during my studio hours and park in the garage.
- Nice house! Can I come in?
  - Even if the door is open, please ring or knock, as we usually keep the screen door locked.
  - Please remain in the foyer behind the black baby gate if I am not done with the previous student. This is my parents' home, and they watch my son during studio, and he is crawling. We are trying to minimize shoe and school germs coming into the house. Please stay behind the gate unless invited by Ms. Jorrie or Mrs. Powell.
- Why the weird hours?
  - I work at Twelve Stones Classical School as their K-12 music teacher from 12:15 - 4:00 pm. I keep my non-studio evenings free for my husband and son, my family, and my friends, so my studio evenings are rigid.
  - Later in the semester, I occasionally have full studio closures due to school and church events. But I try to schedule these closures in advance, and I usually specially open Tuesdays or Fridays to cover the closed days. These Tuesdays/Fridays are not the regular, but I try to plan ahead so all studio parents still have availability for their students.
- How much do lessons cost? How do I pay you?
  - \$38 for a half hour, \$43 for 45 minutes, and \$53 for an hour. I accept payment by check or app (**no cash**). Information for my Venmo is available upon request. I send out an invoice detailing all that month's lesson dates and times during the last weekend of the month, and I expect payment for all lessons on or before the last calendar day of the month.

- I am available on Venmo, PayPal, and CashApp. PayPal takes an app fee out the total amount, so if you choose to use Venmo, there will be a required “App Fee” on your monthly invoice to ensure that I receive the full amount for your student’s month of lessons.
- If you choose to use Venmo, **do not** mark the transaction as payment for goods/services, because Venmo will take a “seller transaction fee” of 1.9%, and I will have to add an “App Fee” to your invoice as well.
- If, for whatever reason, the payment is delayed longer than the last calendar day of the month, I begin applying a late fee of 10% increase for every following week: \$40 -> \$44 -> \$48.40, etc. If payment is not received after two months, your student will be removed from my studio, and payment will still be required.
- What if I need to cancel? What if I forget a lesson?
  - If the student cannot attend the lesson, call/text/email me no later than 2 hours before the lesson. 1.5 hours is mandatory, 6-12 hours is preferable. Once I get a notification that a student can’t make it, I will reach out to the parent ASAP to find a different day for the lesson or try to schedule a virtual lesson. If the lesson cannot be changed, and it is cancelled within the hours listed above, no payment is required. If the lesson can be moved to a different day or moved to virtual, payment will be shifted to that day or remain on the invoice listed as “Virtual”.
  - If the student is a no-show without warning, or within less than 1.5 hours’ notice, I will still charge the full lesson price for that lesson time slot. Additionally, if a student is over 10 minutes late with no warning, I will still charge the full lesson price despite starting at the later time, and I will end at the usual time.
  - Lastly, if the student is 15 minutes late and is not responding to any communication, I will cancel the lesson and still charge the full price.

- What if YOU need to cancel a lesson?
  - I do everything I can to ensure I am present for all my lesson with all my students. My studio is both my job and my passion, and I do everything I can to ensure my full attention and presence at every lesson. However, if I find myself needing to cancel a lesson, or if I answer a phone call/text saying that you are at my studio door and I am not answering, that lesson will not be charged.
- What if I need a virtual lesson?
  - Cold and flu season gets to us all, tummies get upset, appointments go long, families get messy, traffic goes crazy, Colorado weather is what it is (need I say more?): I get it! I am open and available to teach through Google Meet or FaceTime. Please schedule a virtual lesson if the student is sick but can still play.
  - If you have other children who attend the lesson (older/younger siblings) who become sick and you cannot leave them at home, then you will also need to go virtual, cancel, or reschedule.
- What do I need for my lessons? How do I size my instrument? What do I find all my supplies?
  - I recommend renting/purchasing through Graner Music, Mijares Violins (both are local to the Springs), or Luther Strings (who are in Denver). The string people are Graner are excellent, and they will size you up accurately and provide all your supplies for purchase or along with the instrument rent (instrument, bow, shoulder rest/sponge, rosin, cleaning cloth, case). Juan Mijares is a good friend and my personal luthier (violin maker) for all my instrument maintenance. Lastly, Dr. Christopher Luther was my violin professor in college who has since started a strings shop.

- Do I need to practice?
  - Only on the days that end in “-day”. Yes, you definitely need to practice! The amount of time will vary depending on your skill level, but it can range anywhere from 10 minutes to 60 minutes every day. I recommend that most beginners practice 10-15 minutes every day. As a Christian, I am a strong advocate of “days of rest”. I personally profit from taking a day through the week of not practicing, and I highly recommend your student does as well.
- Will I be able to showcase my talent?
  - Definitely! I put on studio recitals that I schedule at the beginning of each semester. I pick a piece with each individual student, walk them through the correct recital preparation procedures, and help them practice proper recital etiquette. I usually plan for two recitals: the end of the fall semester in December, and the end of the spring semester in late May/very early June.
  - Your student is expected to perform in every recital. However, maintain a position in my studio, each student is **required** to perform in one recital every calendar year.
- Why is my mom/dad/guardian still here?
  - I require a parent/guardian to stay for the duration of their student’s lesson. I do this to ensure the adult knows what I am teaching, how I am teaching it, and their student’s particular strengths and weaknesses to work on with them at home. Additionally, I am a very big advocate for guardian involvement in their children’s extracurriculars.
  - If the regular parent cannot bring the student to the lesson, please ensure that a trusted adult accompanies the student inside and sits through the lesson.
- What if I’m old enough to drive? Does my parent/guardian still have to come?
  - If your student is old enough to drive him-/her-self to lessons, I do allow the student to come to lesson alone. However, the adult needs to have attended lessons in person

with the student for **a year and a half prior** so that you are familiar with how I teach and how your student and I interact. Once your student has 1, been in my studio for a year and a half and 2, has a valid driver's license, he/she can start driving him-/her-self to violin or viola lessons unattended.