

# Oboe Lessons

Emily Rixstine

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Rates: \$25 per half-hour, \$35 per 45 minutes, \$45 per hour

Hello!

My name is Emily Rixstine and I am a second year masters student at OU. I have a Bachelor of Music in Oboe Performance from Millikin University. I have performed with several different orchestras—Millikin Decatur Symphony Orchestra, the OU Symphony Orchestra, Norman Philharmonic, and the Oklahoma City Philharmonic. I have studied with Dr. Alison Robuck, Tina Nicholson, and Dr. Dan Schwartz. I love playing the oboe, and it is my passion to teach students of all ages. By pursuing my masters and eventual doctoral degrees in performance, I am striving to become a better oboist and teacher. I'm looking forward to meeting you and I'm excited to help you grow as a musician!

Any teacher has teaching policies, below you will find my expectations and suggestions to set yourself up for success.

- Payment is due at the beginning of the month. This helps to ensure dedication to the lessons, and it is easier to keep track of for budget purposes. Should you need a different payment plan, please feel free to approach me and we will work something out.
- Cancellations happen, we all have things pop up. If you need to cancel, I must have notice within 24 hours via call, text, or email. I reserve the right to only make-up 2 lessons in a semester. Any more than 2 absences and we are both losing out on learning opportunities and musical growth. In the event of an emergency, including but not limited to illness, death in the family, etc., we can change plans accordingly.
- I schedule lessons in two categories, weekly and bi-weekly. It is my belief that weekly lessons are the most beneficial way to become proficient on an instrument, especially the oboe. However, school and extracurriculars can make scheduling difficult. Should you wish to do bi-weekly lessons, I insist on at least 45 minutes to an hour per lesson. This gives you the best opportunity to soak up as much in each lesson as possible.
- Oboists commit themselves to one of the trickiest instruments in the ensemble. We cannot purchase our reeds in boxes like clarinet or saxophone players. I do make reeds for students, they cost \$20. I am happy to make reeds for you, but for me to make them effectively I need notice at least a week in advance. Reeds can be put on a schedule as

well—I am happy to set up a reed purchasing schedule to fit your needs. If you choose to buy off from the internet, a reed between \$16-20 is the best bet. Do not go for cheap reeds, the more you invest in your sound the better your sound will be. In the case of an emergency or I cannot make you a reed, please look to these websites:

<http://www.hboberoeds.com/hb-student-oboe-reed/>

<https://dunkelreeds.com/products/copy-of-standard-reed>

- Reeds can be tricky to navigate and rely on, and the solution to reed issues is to make sure you have backups in case you run into a faulty reed. I require at least two working reeds in your reed case at any given point. This is only for your benefit and comfortability as a player. The only way to set yourself up for success is to be prepared—if you only have one reed and it dies on the day of an important performance...what do you do? If you have a backup, you just switch reeds!!
- Practice, along with reeds, is one of the most important things we can do for ourselves as oboists and musicians. It is a crucial part of learning, maintaining, and polishing our skills as we grow musically. As an oboist in private lessons, you should practice at least 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week. It does not need to be all in one sitting. In fact, I typically break up my practice sessions into 15-20 minute intervals with 5 minute breaks in between them. Intense, focused practice is more beneficial than long, distracted practice. Experiment. Try different ways of practicing. Should you need help or tips on practice strategies, feel free to ask! It's why I'm here!
- Finally, I believe in musicianship and nurturing the growth and exploration found within it. It is my job as a teacher to make sure you are set up for success in all your musical endeavors. As a part of my studio, I can promise you that I will be dedicated to your growth as an oboist. I will do everything I can to help you feel confident, musical, and prepared throughout whatever musical adventures in which you choose to participate. I will always be there to support you, and I will always cheer you on as you try new things!