



RUSSIAN SOUND MUSIC ACADEMY

Russian Sound Music Academy was founded in 2015 to provide passionate and talented students in Hong Kong with the techniques of the Russian conservatory system. This pedagogical tradition is known the world over, and it was obvious that talented Hong Kong students were appreciative of this level of training.

Since that time, the studio has quickly grown from its modest roots to offer lessons and guidance in multiple musical disciplines. Our goals:

- to provide the highest quality musical training to Hong Kong students of all backgrounds.
- To offer fun and engaging activities and opportunities to our students
- To provide artistic offerings to the local and Hong Kong community for cultural enrichment.
- To continue learning and growing

Below you will find the rules and guidelines that have been designed with years of experience that are put in place to ensure a positive experience for everyone.

GENERAL RULES

Students, families, and teachers are expected to keep civil, courteous, and polite about their interactions with each other and treat all parties of the studio with kindness and respect.

Every student shall be properly registered with full name and age provided as well as full name of parent, parent email and phone number. **Student school name or school calendar shall be submitted as well.**

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT: To simplify monthly billing, all students registered at RSMA must pay a one-time registration fee in the amount of four lessons according to their lesson plan. This fee will be kept throughout the duration of their study at RSMA and will be used to pay for the final month of lessons at the conclusion of their study when they choose to withdraw from the studio. At the end of each month, students will receive a bill for the lessons taken/taught during that month. This should be paid according to the due date listed on the invoice (normally the 5th day of the following month).

Sick Leave: Students must notify the teacher at least 2 hours in advance and may be asked to provide a medical excuse. Only makeup lessons will be offered, no refunds.

Lateness: Students arriving late will not receive any additional time at the end of the lesson; the full lesson fee will still be charged.

Lessons cancelled on the day of a lesson will not be refunded and will not be rescheduled.

Please note that occasional schedule conflicts with other activities (ballet/sport/other classes) MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED as an official excuse; in this instance, the student shall pay cancellation fee OR schedule make up lesson.

WITHDRAWING FROM THE STUDIO

Withdrawing initiated by a student: a student may withdraw from the academy without explanation with 1-month notice. In the case that students wish to withdraw from the studio "temporarily," the student may only continue to take lessons in the following semester based on studio enrollment and teachers' availability.

Expulsion from the studio: in the event of exceptional situations, a student may be excluded from the studio. These reasons include but are not limited to the following: skipping lessons on a regular basis, intentional damage to office equipment, misbehaving and failure to demonstrate dedication and practice after 2 months following a first warning (warnings will be noted in the student's assignment book).

STUDY MATERIALS/BOOKS/RESOURCES

1F, Kam Tak Building, 20-24 Mercer St, Sheung Wan

All printed study resources in use must be approved by the teacher; however, the teacher is not responsible for purchasing music books for students.

EXAMS

Grade and repertoire choice: entering any exam must be discussed with the teacher. The teacher makes a final decision about which grade and repertoire would be the most appropriate for the student. Please note that in case of starting preparation for an exam from the point of selecting repertoire, there must be a minimum period of 16 lessons given towards an exam preparation.

Application: The teacher will advise which term to enter, what repertoire to submit, remind important deadlines, but the student is responsible for submitting application and payment.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

Opportunities: Each student will be given an opportunity to perform during the monthly studio- classes/mini-concerts for a private audience of academy students and family members. Students, demonstrating a reasonable level of preparation and artistry as determined by the teacher will be selected to perform on the end of semester showcase recital taking place on one of the public stages in Hong Kong and open to public audience. Students with exceptional achievements will be advised to perform at the public concerts and festivals and enter local and international competitions.

Repertoire and public performances policy: enrolled students must give an advanced notice to the teacher in the event of all public performances or music competitions prior to agreeing to participate. Our teachers are responsible for students' progress and success, and will provide the students with strategic advice, appropriate repertoire, and technical, musical, and psychological preparation to encourage the best result. Entering open competitions without teacher's approval is strictly prohibited.

PRIVACY

Videotaping lessons: music lessons can be videotaped with the approval of the teacher ONLY but cannot be displayed on social media platforms or internet sites.

Publicity and under-age privacy protection: The Academy maintains all rights to present selected photos, videos, and statistics materials on the academy's official website www.russiansound-piano.com, Facebook page, Hong Kong local news, and advertisements. In order to protect students' privacy, full names of students will not be posted on the same report with the media sources such as photos and videos without the consent of the student and legal guardians for those under the age of 16. (Where applicable, please give a written note to the teacher if you wish to keep the name and photo of your child completely private).

STUDIO POLICY AUGUST 2026-JULY 2027 FLEXIBLE RATES

The goals of this scheme:

- to avoid major rate-increases in response to growing operational costs; RSMA tries its best to keep prices the same as pre-Covid.
- to promote efficiency in the schedule of teachers and of facilities while maintaining a high level of instructional quality.
- to motivate students to maintain regular weekly lessons and, as a result, stable progress.

We are offering two payment plans:

- **FLEXIBLE PLAN:** walk-in lessons for people who prefer to schedule their appointments on short notice without building any type of consistent, pre-planned schedule. These lessons will be priced at the prevailing market rate (see Tom Lee or Parsons Professional Courses involving teachers with Masters or Doctoral university degrees and international performance careers), and they can be scheduled on short notice according to the availability of the teacher and the studio; they can be planned and paid up to one day before the lesson appointment.
- **ADVANCED PLAN:** monthly packages of 4 lessons. These packages are priced well below the market rate, are scheduled in advance, are pre-paid in advance, and have a strict cancellation policy: cancelled lessons are not fully-refundable if not rescheduled (with exception of T8 and black rain storm days, teacher cancellations, public holidays as Sept 26th, Oct 1st, Oct 19th, Dec 25-26, January 1, Feb 6-9, Mar 26-29, Apr 5, May 1, May 13, June 9, July 1 and additionally 2 weeks of Christmas holiday time, one week of Lunar New Year, and one week of Easter holidays, and one full month (30-31 days) of summer holiday). Excluding these dates, cancelled lessons that are not rescheduled within the same month or within 30 days without exception will be charged according to the table below.
- **SATURDAY LESSONS:** the demand for Saturday lessons is overwhelming. As a result, to incentivise scheduling lessons on weekdays, weekday lessons will be slightly cheaper.

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INTERVIEW AND AUDITION APPOINTMENT (includes skills review, interest and personality test in playful setting, interview with student and parent, little teaching sample of problem solving, teacher's recommendations and descriptions on studio environment and policies)

\$400/30 min (all instruments and grades, conducted in main office only. Inquire about intro lesson length and price outside)

FLAT RATE WALK-IN LESSONS OR PRIVATE MASTER-CLASSES (all instruments and grades, 24 hrs prepayment)

\$1250/hr

\$850/45min

\$1800/90min

DISCOUNTED PACKAGE DEALS

Number of lessons per month	Price categories for COMPLETE package of 4	INCOMPLETE package of 3 unless make up lesson is scheduled (average 10% increase)	INCOMPLETE package of 2 (average 20% increase) <i>*You may lose your secured weekly time next month!!!</i>	INCOMPLETE PACKAGE of 1 lesson out of 4	Extra charge for incomplete package (1-2 missed out of 4)
Price per lesson (Estimated bill per month) 30 min	<u>\$400/lesson</u> (\$1600/month)	\$440/lesson (\$1320/month)	\$480/lesson (\$960/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	\$120/\$160
30 min	<u>\$450/lesson</u> (\$1800/month)	\$495/lesson (\$1485/month)	\$540/lesson (\$1080/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	\$135/\$180
30 min	<u>\$500/lesson</u> (\$2000/month)	\$550/lesson (\$1650/month)	\$600/lesson (\$1200/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	\$150/\$200
45 min	<u>\$550/lesson</u> (\$2200/month)	\$605/lesson (\$1815/month)	\$660/lesson (\$1320/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	\$165/\$220
45 min	<u>\$600/lesson</u> (\$2400/month)	\$660/lesson (\$1980/month)	\$720/lesson (\$1440/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	\$180/\$240
45 min	<u>\$650/lesson</u> (\$2600/month)	\$715/lesson (\$2145/month)	\$780/lesson (\$1560/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	\$195/\$260
45 min- 1hr	<u>\$700/lesson</u> (\$2800/month)	\$770/lesson (\$2310/month)	\$840/lesson (\$1680/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	\$210/\$280
45 min -1 hr	<u>\$750/lesson</u> (\$3000/month)	\$825/lesson (\$2475/month)	\$900/lesson (\$1800/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	\$225/\$320
1 hr lessons	<u>\$800/lesson</u> (\$3200/month)	\$880/lesson (\$2640/month)	\$960/lesson (\$1920/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	\$240/\$320
1hr	<u>\$850/lesson</u> (\$3400/month)	\$935/lesson (\$2805/month)	\$1020/lesson (\$2040/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	\$255/\$340
1hr	<u>\$900/lesson</u> (\$3600/month)	\$990/lesson (\$2970/month)	\$1080/lesson (\$2160/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	\$270/\$360
1hr	<u>\$950/lesson</u> (\$3800/month)	\$1045/lesson (\$3135/month)	\$1140/lesson (\$2280/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	\$285/\$380
1hr	<u>\$1000/lesson</u> (\$4000/month)	\$1100/lesson (\$3300/month)	\$1200/lesson (\$2400/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	\$300/\$400
1 hr	<u>\$1100/lesson</u> (\$4400/month)	\$1200/lesson (\$3600/month)	\$1250/lesson (\$2500/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	\$300
1 hr	<u>\$1200/lesson</u> (\$4800/month)	No package deal-walk-in price	No package deal-walk-in price	No package deal-walk-in price	\$300

Please note that lessons conducted outside our premises requiring teacher to travel are subject of travel fee, \$50-200.

Important:

-if typhoon or official public holiday day falls on a regular lesson day for the month causing a potential lesson cancellation, that would not affect your hourly lessons price, as it is excused.

-if a teacher cancels one of your 4, pre-paid package lessons and no convenient rescheduling option is available, your cancelled lesson is fully refundable.

-in the instance where personal travel plans or other activity plans do not match official public holidays, you may schedule your make-up lessons or add make-up time to excising lessons in-advance prior to your travel; this can act as credit for the following month in which lessons are cancelled due to said travel/activity.

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-some teachers may decide to teach during public holidays, these public holidays lessons are not mandatory, moreover if you take public holiday lesson you may receive a credit for the following month (*if you need to skip one lesson next month, it will be calculated by full package rate)

-if teacher cannot fit full make-up lesson within one day, you may make up the time instead by adding it to each of following lessons; for example, add 30 min to the following two lessons or 20 min to the following three lessons; this would compensate one full-length skipped 1-hr lesson)

-make up lessons shall be scheduled within a teacher's regular working days in the office or another location OR within special scheduled make-up lesson day as agreed with the teacher 1-2 weeks in advance.

PRIME TIME DEMAND MONTHLY FEE

Due to overwhelming demand for lessons conducted on Saturdays we are adding small monthly fee for holding regular time on Saturdays to reduce competition and incentivise students to take weekday lessons. Those fees are as follows:

- \$50 monthly fee for holding regular Saturday lesson time

***** this fee shall NOT apply to any make up lessons scheduled on Saturday

***** this fee shall NOT apply to students taking more than one lesson on Saturday with more than one teacher involved as it limits choices and requires an additional coordination.

OTHER POTENTIAL CHARGES:

Besides regular monthly lesson packages charges, monthly prime time fees and one time deposit, you may be charged following one-time fees:

- RSMA lesson progress book with summary of music theory – \$20 one-time charge (mandatory)

- Music practice or recording room fee if you practice or record your exam on your own without teacher's assistance: \$80/hr for upright piano practice room, \$150/hr for grand piano small practice room and \$250/hr for grand piano large recording room

- Additional study materials purchased by the teacher for the student to keep, the amount for reimbursement shall be included to student bill.

- If teacher travels to student house, especially to remote zones, the teacher may request an additional travel charges, taxi or parking fee reimbursements, those charges may also appear on your bill

- Our studio hosts variety of educational workshops and performance events; participating student would be expected to pay an additional participation fee. Here are some estimations:

- small scale performance class conducted in large grand piano teaching and exam recording room for audience not exceeding 20 people - \$70-\$100 per student as participation fee (no extra charges for family members; however, family members observing the class are limited to no more than two).

- workshop or other educational group class conducted in studio (choir, music theory, music history, chamber music, acting, sight-reading camp, etc.) - \$100-\$200 participation fee

guest artist professional private concerts exclusively for RSMA students and supporters taking place at the RSMA recital hall - \$150-\$250 each seat reservation fee

- studio concerts hosted in RSMA recital space for audience not exceeding 50 people - \$125-\$200 per student as participation fee (no extra charges required for family members; however, family members attending the concert is limited to 3-4 people)

- RSMA gala performances conducted OUTSIDE of the studio for audiences between 50 and 400 people - \$250-\$500 student participation fee and additional tickets for audience members and guests may be requested depending on the specific venue used and its policy.