

MC KAYLA TALASEK

LESSON STUDIO PACKET



www.mckaylatalasekviolinviola.com



MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR



Mc Kayla Talasek

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Mc Kayla Talasek is a Specialist in violin and viola. She teaches private violin, viola, and piano lessons to all ages and experience levels and has been teaching over 15+ years. Having taught in San Antonio, TX, then Reno, NV, now back to her home town of St. Louis, Missouri, she continues to find ways to offer lessons to students from all walks of life. Currently, she teaches at her home studio, as well as Saint Louis String Collective, Forsyth School, and Gateway Music Outreach.

Ms. Talasek received her BA in Violin Performance from University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas, and an MM in Viola Performance from University of Nevada, Reno. She has had the privilege to study with viola instructors: Beth Guterman-Chu, Yizhak Schotten, Dustin Budish, and Gerald Schoelzel; and with violin instructors: Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio, Jenny Jones, and Richard Kilmer.

In masterclass settings, Mc Kayla performed with a chamber group for the Solera Quartet, Dover String Quartet, Ariana String Quartet, and Bravia Quartet. She also had opportunities to perform on solo violin and viola masterclasses for Bella Hristova, Jonathan Vinocour, Yizhak Schotten, Noah Bendix-Balgley, Cho-Liang Lin, Gilles Apap, and David Halen.

Currently, she performs on a Gaetano Sgarbotto viola from 1930, and a “Talasek” violin from 2014. She’s honored to be a Section Viola Sub with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra since 2024 and finds joy performing with local groups: St. Louis Chamber Soloists, St. Louis Chamber Project, and the Candlelight Series.

Throughout her career she’s also performed on violin and viola in the Missouri Symphony Orchestra, Reno Chamber Orchestra, Reno Philharmonic, Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Heartland Festival Orchestra, Susanville Symphony, Flint Michigan Symphony Orchestra, Mid-Texas Symphony, Laredo Phil, Symphony of the Hills, Kingsville Symphony, Corpus Christi Symphony, and the Victoria Symphony.

Summer Festivals attended include: Missouri Symphony Orchestra Firefly Music Festival, Bear Valley Music Festival, Montecito International Music Festival, Prague Summer Nights Music Festival, Mozart Festival, and the Fischhoff Chamber Competition.

When she is not teaching, performing, or practicing, Mc Kayla loves walking her dog Hana Banana and her cat Peaches O'Malley, maintaining a consistent fitness regimen, attending concerts, and traveling to new places.



LESSON POLICY

RESPONSIBILITIES

Instructor Responsibilities

I will teach all students the techniques required to play their chosen instrument. We will have fun, engaging lessons focusing on music theory, reading sheet music, developing aural skills, learning proper technique and form while performing, and growing musical knowledge in the process. I am here to cater to students individually based on their own learning ideas, amplifying their strengths and analyzing the weaknesses.

Student Responsibilities

Each student will need to come prepared for each lesson by having worked on the material discussed in the last lesson. **It is best for students to come with a designated music notebook for taking notes during lessons.** During the week, I encourage each student to perform the pieces they are working on for their parents, relatives, or friends as a way to get comfortable performing in front of people.

Each student should look forward to recording some pieces to send to family for Christmas time and possibly a recital in the spring! Date and time to be announced at a later time.

Parent Responsibilities

Depending on the student's choice, each parent should be involved in their child's musical instrument practicing.

Here are a few ways to help:

1. Take time to observe and listen to practice sessions.
2. Help maintain a running log of what the student should be learning each week.
3. Help set up goals through out the week to help with practicing habits.
4. Provide a supportive and loving environment for the student to feel safe being themselves while learning a skill that forces balance between mistakes and progress simultaneously.

If you have any questions regarding how you can help at home, let's chat one on one and come up with the best ideas that suits your family.



LESSON POLICY

LOCATION & ESSENTIALS

Locations for In-Person Lessons

McKayla Talasek Home Studio
6034A Columbia Ave
St. Louis, MO 63139

Virtual Lessons if needed:
Facetime, Zoom, or Google Meet

Essential Needs for Lessons

Violin:

- Violin
- Violin Bow
- Violin Case
- Rosin
- Microfiber Cloth
- Shoulder Rest
- Notebook for Lesson Notes
- Book TBD
- Metronome/Tuner

Viola:

- Viola
- Viola Bow
- Viola Case
- Rosin
- Microfiber Cloth
- Shoulder Rest
- Notebook for Lesson Notes
- Book TBD
- Metronome/Tuner

Cello:

- Cello
- Cello Bow
- Cello Case
- Rosin
- Microfiber Cloth
- Rockstop
- Notebook for Lesson Notes
- Book TBD
- Metronome/Tuner

Piano:

- Acoustic Upright Piano
- or
- Digital Piano with Hammer Action Keys
 - Notebook for Lesson Notes
 - Book TBD
 - Metronome

Favorite Rental Shops for Violin, Viola, Cello

Saint Louis Strings
6331 Clayton Ave
Saint Louis, MO 63139

314-644-6999
www.stlstrings.com

Top Notch
3109 Sutton Blvd
Saint Louis, MO 63143

314-696-2172
www.topnotchviolins.com

Favorite Shop to Buy!

Geoffrey J Seitz Violinmaker
4171 Loughborough Ave
Saint Louis, MO 63116

314-353-1312
www.seitzviolins.com



LESSON POLICY

MISSED LESSONS

Student Make Up Policy

- All lessons are subject to payment, regardless of the missed class.
- If you would like to make changes to the schedule agreed upon, changes must be made before the semester starts.
- Any missed lesson will NOT be made up during the semester. Instead, students will be prompted through the student portal to submit an audio recording of what they are working on and I will respond with a video recording back within 48 hours.
- If there is inclement weather, students can either switch to virtual or video recording for that day. I will also communicate any changes if needed.

Teacher Make Up Policy

- I will find a time that works best for the student and my schedule within the semester if I need to reschedule.
- If you study through Forsyth or St. Louis String Collective, rescheduled lessons will be virtual.

I like to provide as much flexibility as possible for myself and the student. Each student's success is most important to me. Please do not hesitate to reach out if changes are needed mid semester; however, I may not be able to accommodate the changes for in person. Recordings or virtual lessons might be the best option.



LESSON POLICY

LESSON COST

Starting Summer 2026:

30 min/\$50

45 min/\$70

60 min/ \$90

Multiple Student Family:

30 min/\$45

45 min/\$65

60 min/\$85

Payment method preferred: Cash

Other options: Check, Venmo, Zelle

Lessons can be paid in full, two/three installments, or monthly each semester.

Monthly lesson payments are due on the first lesson of each month.



LESSON POLICY CHANGES

RECORDED LESSONS

Starting Fall 2026, I will be teaching 15 weeks, providing this layout:

- 2 consecutive weeks of in person lessons (virtual always an option if needed during these two weeks)
- 1 week recorded video lesson
- 1 week off, with opportunities to sign up for 15 min check in virtual lessons via the student/parent portal schedule sign up calendar.

During the recording week each month, students will be given a prompt in their folder via the student portal, with instructions of what to play and the desired improvements from the previous two weeks of in-person lessons.

The prompt will be available to view the next day after their last in Person lesson. Recordings will be due Wednesday of that week, and I will provide a video response to the same folder, within 48 hours. Students will have until Friday evening to submit any late videos.

Check-in virtual lessons are there and available to any student who would like clarification or assistance with something! No extra fee will be required for any check-in lesson requests during the off week.