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## **Teaching Philosophy**

### **Private Lessons:**

I believe in a comprehensive approach to teaching music, and incorporate elements of improvisation, composition, theory and ear training, to foster better all-around musicianship. I don't believe in the purely "technique first" approach, and am committed to including these concepts with students of any age and level. Improvising and composing are extremely natural things for young musicians to do, they're just often unnecessarily put off until later.

I tailor my teaching to the individual student, based on their goals, experience, and learning style. I have found some students who learn best by listening to recordings, others who have a natural gift for theory.

I work with each student to develop a practice routine for them that is productive and enjoyable, without being overwhelming. Having spent years dreading practicing, I appreciate the importance of enjoying the process of working towards a goal. Once a student learns to enjoy this process, it becomes a lifelong skill, which translates easily into other fields as well as music.

### **Trumpet:**

I teach loosely based around the Caruso trumpet method, although I have found useful exercises from a wide range of teachers and systems. At the heart of my trumpet teaching is developing a daily routine, which incorporates air-flow, lip flexibility, articulation and range studies, and evolves along with the trumpeter.

For jazz trumpet students, I encourage all my students to play piano as well, as many of the improvisation concepts we will work on are better learned away from the trumpet.

### **Piano:**

While I am not a professional performing pianist, I do much of my practicing, composing and teaching at the piano, and am very comfortable with young piano students.

**Other instruments:**

I am very willing to work on improvisation or composition with any other instrumentalists as well, either in a short term or long term setting, especially if the student already has a fair degree of technical proficiency.