

Montpelier Cello and Brass Studio

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Welcome!

We are very happy to be teaching you or your child. We hope that you will find yourself enjoying lessons as much as we enjoy teaching them. We have organized some information about ourselves and our teaching styles, plus a little about the work that we will do together.

Bob's Biography: Well-known cellist, recitalist, conductor, and pedagogue **Robert Blais** has performed in great halls with the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra and the New England Symphonic Ensemble, and as chamber musician with the Uterlinde-Johnston-Blais Trio and the Pythagorean Trio in the Columbia University Artist Series. He has appeared as soloist with the Holyoke Symphony, the Melrose Symphony Orchestra, the Guilford Festival Orchestra, and the Montpelier Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Blais has served on the faculty of the Music Conservatory of Westchester in White Plains, NY, the Hollis Woods Music School in Queens, NY, the Chamber Music Institute at the University of New Hampshire and the Westford Suzuki School in Westford, MA as well as leading a popular cello orchestra in the Boston area. Robert presently performs throughout the Northeast as soloist and chamber musician, is the Music Director of the Green Mountain Youth Symphony, and boasts dozens of cello students in his home studio of Montpelier, Vermont.

Mr. Blais' students have been very successful in a wide variety of performing situations. His young students have been members of the Greater Boston, Northeast, Green Mountain and Vermont Youth Orchestras, have won auditions to participate in New Hampshire and Vermont All-State Festivals and All New England Orchestras, and have received top ratings in the New York State Music Association Competition. Mr. Blais' adult students have become members of the Vermont Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestras, the Montpelier Chamber Orchestra, and other professional orchestras. Robert has had students perform on the Rosie O'Donnell show, play solo at Lincoln Center, and participate in national and international festivals.

Lydia's Biography: Hornist and composer **Lydia Busler-Blais** began her career at the age of 16 performing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Lydia has performed with the New York City Ballet, Brooklyn Philharmonic, José Limon Dance Company, and Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, and held the position of Solo Horn with the Rome Festival Opera. She is a soloist, recitalist, improvisationalist, commissioned composer, and provides workshops to collegiate and conservatory studios. Lydia Busler-Blais collaborates with pianist Elizabeth Metcalfe, the Heritage Brass Quintet, the New Leaf Quartet, and the Arioso ensemble and is currently working with playwright Lars Nielsen on an opera. Her compositions enjoy repeat performances by some of the world's most gifted musicians across the globe.

Ms. Busler-Blais' is highly sought as a brass teacher and traveling clinician for her unusual work with extreme range ability and whole-body articulation as well as her methods of learning through non-jazz-specific improvisation. Her students play in venues from amateur groups to top music festivals throughout the world and from the local Vermont Philharmonic and Montpelier Chamber Orchestra to professionally on Broadway.

Expectations of students:

- 1) Work towards practicing carefully, not just logging in hours.
- 2) Be curious; think about the instrument during the time between lessons and ask hard questions.
- 3) Enjoy playing music. It may sometimes be difficult, but the challenge should be enjoyable.
- 4) **The most important rule: You are not allowed to say the word "can't," or any other thing that limits your possibilities.** We will, however, accept words like "challenging" or "difficult". You can do anything!

Your expectations of your teacher:

1. You must expect us to give 100%.
2. You must expect us to help you to reach your goals. Remember, your teacher is your employee.
3. You must expect us to try to answer any questions that you might have.
4. You must expect us to be positive.

How much is tuition?

PAYMENT SCHEDULE (per month, due on the first lesson of the month; if payment is not received by the second week, a \$25 late fee may be charged)

1/2 hour lessons:	\$120/month
3/4 hour lessons:	\$180/month
1 hour lessons:	\$240/month

We won't teach during any of the Montpelier School System vacation periods. The monthly fee is the same regardless; some months are shorter, some are longer. If we miss lessons for *any reason*, we will give you credit for it the following month or schedule a make-up lesson. If you miss a lesson for *any reason*, we will not make it up; music lessons are like other academic pursuits and require a long term commitment to attendance. You may, however, trade times with other students; please let us know if this happens. That, in a nutshell, is the way this studio works. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Thank you!
Bob and Lydia