

Charlene Adzima Music's Policies

(updated May 2026)

About Charlene and Her Studio

Welcome to my fiddle studio! I have been playing fiddle for over 30 years, learning by the Suzuki Approach and simultaneously immersing myself in Traditional Irish Music. I have a degree in science (geology), have completed Suzuki Teacher Training for books 1-3, and have been teaching creatively for over 25 years. In 2005, I took 1st place in Senior Fiddle at the Midwest Fleadh Cheoil (Irish music competition) and have competed at the world championships twice. I used to clean and repair violins at a shop in Ohio and am knowledgeable about fiddle maintenance. I currently play with local all-female Irish band The Lilies of the Midwest and teach with MadFiddle, a youth fiddle ensemble.

The typical development track for my students is toward **non-Classical styles**, particularly **Irish Traditional**. My school-age students usually join **MadFiddle** rather than the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra, and they compete at the **Fleadh Cheoil** rather than concerto competitions. That said, my beginner students will start out with the **Suzuki Approach** (parent coaches, positive reinforcement, step-by-step mastery, creative solutions), forming practice and listening habits while developing basic playing abilities. We learn by ear and learn to read music so we can be musically bilingual. Traditional tunes are added when I determine the student has the habits and techniques necessary for success.

Lesson Expectations and Studio Standards

Please show up at or before your scheduled lesson time with your:

- Fiddle
- Bow
- Rosin
- Shoulder rest
- Any lesson materials (books, sheet music, bouncy balls, recordings, etc.)

Homework - isn't that just for school?

Together, we will make some goals and I will assign you homework geared toward fulfilling those goals. If you are unable to do the homework between lessons, we will spend the next lesson doing that homework. It is in your best interest to contact me as soon as you can before the next lesson if you can't find your homework, you don't understand your homework, or you find the homework too difficult. I will be delighted, not upset - honest.

Where is my homework?

Please sign up for Practice Space for FREE at practicespaceapp.com and use my studio code: **55D06W**. Included in the app is access homeworks, recordings, links, sheet music, etc., an easy way to send me texts and videos, and a practice leaderboard for friendly competition in the studio. The students who make the effort to look at their homework page or even write notes down during class, are the ones who make more progress.

What do I listen to?

Find a device and figure out how you will do **at least 20 minutes of listening daily**. Listening practice is the easiest practice and is worthy of being called "practice" even if you do not pick up your instrument that day. The players who have the easiest time learning are those who have done the most listening.

Do I have to practice?

Yes! This is a habit that everyone struggles to construct and maintain at some point in their lives. Even I struggle with practice! Together, we will explore the elements of habits and try some experiments to succeed at playing daily. The students who progress the quickest are the ones who play every day - even if it isn't everything on the homework sheet.

Recitals: BORRRING!

Not if you have to play for one! All students will complete an **accountability project** - performing at a recital, recording, competing, composing, or producing anything that represents what they have learned over the course of the quarter. Students who make time for recitals tend to stay engaged and motivated to continue lessons (even adults!)

Group Music Opportunities

All students will be directed toward **group music opportunities**, either through a program I run, or run by a third-party. My school-age students will be nudged toward joining **MadFiddle**, a youth fiddle ensemble run by Shauncey Ali. My adult students will be encouraged to join a group class or Irish music session in person or online. Students who play with peer groups feel more motivated to push through the difficult times and enjoy the support of others doing the same thing.

Payments and Cancellations

\$44/40-minute lessons, and \$58/55-minute lessons. Most students will require 40-minute lessons; 55-minute lessons are for more advanced students; 20-minute lessons are reserved for one-time interview lessons.

I have two classes of private students: **Long Term** and **Short Term**

Long Term students attend 30 weekly lessons from the Fall through Spring Quarters. Tuition is due 2 weeks before the first week of each quarter. They have 3 make up weeks per school year to accommodate up to 3 absences for any reason. After 3 absences, missed lessons are forfeit unless prior accommodations have been made with me. **Students should plan to come during make-up weeks to accumulate credits for future absences - I will keep track.** School year lessons may end early due to accumulation of lesson credits.

Short Term students schedule lessons at will via the Acuity Scheduling website:

<https://CharleneAdzimaMusic.as.me/>

They will always be scheduled after the Long Term students. Students may self-reschedule via Acuity provided they are before the 24-hour notice mark. The lesson is forfeit if a rescheduling request is made 24 hours or less before the lesson; I have sole discretion to waive the policy if circumstances merit.

Payment options:

- At the time of scheduling with credit card through Acuity
- The e-mailed invoice with credit card or ACH
- Checks made out to "Charlene Adzima" can be submitted in person or mailed to:
325 Garfield St., Stoughton, WI 53589
- Cash
- Venmo @Charlene-Michaels, last 4 digits of phone number are 7071

For Long Term students, If there are illnesses or weather issues, please call/text/e-mail me ASAP so we can reschedule to the make up week (see chart). **For ALL students,** we can ALWAYS do a Zoom lesson, even at short notice. Please continue to keep me informed of any potential absences as soon as you can.

As always, If I cancel (weather, illness, malfunctioning equipment, etc.), I will either schedule a make-up day/time, or I will credit that lesson to you.

Quarter	Due	Number of lessons scheduled	Make-up week	40-minute	55-minute
Fall 2026	8/24/2026	10	<u>11/16/26</u>	\$440	\$580
Winter 2027	11/16/2026	10	<u>2/22/27</u>	\$440	\$580
Spring 2027	<u>2/22/2027</u>	10	<u>5/17/27</u>	\$440	\$580
Summer 2027	5/24/2027	5 or more = priority scheduling in fall	<u>8/23/27</u>	\$44 ea.	\$58 ea

Group Classes

Part of the Suzuki philosophy is having weekly group classes in addition to one-on-one private lessons. Some benefits of a group class:

- Learning how to play in a group
- Reviewing shared repertoire
- Continuing skill development in a new context
- Having joyful social time with peers! (best part)

Students who do both private lessons and group lessons tend to have more favorable outcomes with increased skill development, continued study of the instrument, and a sense of musical identity and belonging.

This year, I am planning to have a Beginner Irish Session Class, geared toward teenagers and older. Details will be forthcoming. No makeups for missed group classes.

Zoom Virtual Lesson Logistics

There is a Zoom link in your Acuity Scheduling email; use that link each time we use Zoom. Do your best to tune before the lesson. You should not change your screen name or background during the lesson. **If possible, please leave your video on and position yourself so I can see your entire left hand and right hand.** You may need to sit or stand farther away from the screen. Soap. Technological difficulties will be attended to as they come. I will give you all the help I can during the lesson time, but you are ultimately responsible for maintaining a working device, microphone, and headphones/speakers.

Contact Information

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