

PERSONAL STATEMENT

As a private trumpet instructor, I constantly refine my teaching methods to meet the needs of my students. This requires that I not only evaluate my own playing, but also keep an open mind for what might work for individual students. The goals of private instruction can be summed up as nurturing motivation and developing musicality. The latter is often lost in the challenge of developing proper technique. A great teacher once reminded me,

“Learners like to master a technical challenge, but what they love is music—that’s what keeps them pouring themselves into the science of those challenges.”

I maintain a balance between addressing musical and technical issues, often solving one through attention to the other.

Cultivating skills such as experimentation, problem-solving, and self-assessment helps to actively involve the student in the learning process and engender a lasting sense of ownership. I use improvisation, composition, and other student-generated activities to foster a joyful outlook on practicing.

The private lesson has been called an “improvised teaching and learning duet,” as all students require personalized, sensitive instruction. I assess a student’s interests, goals, and needs and work to turn those into realizable and authentic practice routines.



JONAH KAPPRAFF

professional educator & performer

Jonah comes to Lewisburg, PA from Boston, where he spent a decade performing with New England’s finest professional ensembles and training scores of young trumpeters, many of whom continue to pursue music professionally. Throughout the Susquehanna Valley, Jonah has developed a reputation as a creative, expert pedagogue, and a skillful, dependable, and multi-faceted performer.

Already a pianist by the fourth grade, Jonah joined the band only because his best friend refused to study a wind instrument unless Jonah did as well! One inspiring music teacher after another gave Jonah the idea that the music profession could be a fulfilling path. By the time he enrolled at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, in 2001, Jonah was poised to take his skills to the next level.

At Oberlin, Jonah’s degrees in trumpet performance and music education gave him a solid grounding in technique and pedagogy. Further studies at Boston University with soloist Terry Everson and trumpet guru Steve Emery decisively shaped Jonah’s approach to the trumpet. Jonah can be seen playing with numerous professional symphony orchestras, chamber ensembles, in theater pits, and as a soloist with many intrepid collaborators.

CONTACT FOR RATES AND SCHEDULING

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JONAH KAPPRAFF
trumpet instructor

nurturing
motivation &
developing
musicality

THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIVIDUALIZED MUSIC LESSONS

1 PERSONALIZED PACING

Performing an instrument requires the synthesis of many actions, some of which come easier than others. A student may have no trouble learning fingerings, but may find it difficult to make a clear sound. Without help from a private instructor, a faulty setup may become a road block to progress on range and tone quality.

2 MINIMIZED FRUSTRATIONS

Though frustration can foster determination for some students, it can discourage others. It's sad to see a child give up on their instrument when all that was needed was a little personal attention. When a student exhibits frustration in a lesson, the one-on-one setting is the perfect venue to dial-in the precise remedy.

3 LEARN HOW TO PRACTICE

Teaching practice skills is the primary objective of lessons. By sending the student home weekly with a practice plan, the instructor helps the student get the most out of their individual practice time. As a student begins to see the fruits of their work, practicing becomes a welcome respite from the other pressures of their day!

4 FIND YOUR VOICE

Under the guidance of a skilled instructor, a child quickly learns the fundamentals of playing. With a solid foundation and a confident sound, young musicians are less likely to give up. In high school, the options for high-quality extracurricular music making increase for the dedicated music student, opening up a new world of exciting performances.

5 STAY MOTIVATED

After learning the basics, a music student may be at a loss for how to take their playing to the next level. Private instructors are knowledgeable about repertoire, recordings, and styles and can help the student discover music that excites them. Often, all a student needs in order to remain stimulated is someone to report to regularly. It is always easier to work for something when you know that you're accountable to someone—your teacher.

"It is endlessly fulfilling to watch my students mature personally and musically over many years of study. I feel fortunate to be part of their process of self-discovery."

—JONAH KAPPRAFF

TESTIMONIALS

Jonah's teaching style is both gentle and challenging. His love for music is an inspiring example for young musicians embarking on their own life paths. It was a joy to see our son's enthusiasm and commitment to the instrument grow, as well as his understanding of the rewards of discipline. — Suki C.

Jonah is one of the most gifted teachers I have ever seen: patient, skillful, creative, and kind. His ability to find out what each student needs both musically and in his/her personal approach to learning an instrument is truly a gift. — Sheree G.

I cannot say how useful Jonah's teaching and mentoring was. Jonah had to rebuild my trumpet skills from scratch. Our first lessons were about breathing, posture, embouchure, and other basics, as most of what I knew was very rusty. Almost without noticing it, my sound started improving and I regained confidence in playing. Jonah would use analogies to simplify complex ideas about technique and would take time to incorporate music theory as well. Besides being an amazing teacher, Jonah is an extraordinary musician. I would surely recommend him as a music teacher and mentor to anyone who loves music. — Eduardo U.

