



Gabs Damiani Musician

Student Guidelines – from January 2026

- 1) About tuition from **Gabs Damiani (GD)**
 - a) GD offers flexible, comprehensive and professional tuition in the form of one-to-one lessons for students of all ages and standards. His current register of regular students covers ages 10 to 80+, and every standard, from complete beginners to advanced diploma holders.
 - b) Every student's tuition pattern is therefore unique. It may comprise organ, piano, conducting, GCSE/A-Level, accompaniment, coaching or any combination of the above.
 - c) Since each lesson may be booked singly the student remains in control of tuition, although the GD is always happy to make recommendations.

- 2) GD's **organ** teaching style
 - a) GD is a professional organist/musician who is dedicated to teaching to the highest possible standard.
 - b) He expresses this dedication through practical and academic study.
 - c) He is happy to teach:
 - i) students of every standard
 - ii) the entire repertoire with historically aware interpretation and technique
 - iii) keyboard skills
 - iv) examination skills
 - v) liturgical accompaniment
 - vi) registration and organ management
 - d) GD may undergo peer reviews with colleagues in his field.

- 3) Students' **personal goals**

Students can work towards any objectives agreed with GD, for example:

 - a) preparation for an RCO group event
 - b) repertoire development
 - c) technique development
 - d) a church service, a concert or an examination.

4) Preparation for **Examinations**

- a) GD offers organ tuition, support and guidance for all forms of music examination.
- b) For graded examinations GD recommends those of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) because of its carefully composed syllabus, thorough administration and ongoing moderation of standards.
- c) The RCO's Certificate of Accredited Memberships (CAM—available at three stages/levels) offers an alternative or complement to ABRSM graded examinations.
- d) For diplomas GD recommends the Royal College of Organists as it uses both detailed criteria and (usually) three specialist examiners for the performance diplomas.
- e) Nevertheless, when students wish to use another examining system for any reason, GD will still offer the same level of tuition, support and guidance.

5) **Contacting you**

- a) Your contact details will be held by GD who, unless you have given permission to him otherwise, will only use them to contact you for matters related to your study, such as arranging lessons, and recommending classes and courses for you to attend.

6) Lesson **style and content**

- a) GD's students know that he will support and guide them in reaching the highest possible standard whatever their chosen field of attainment.
- b) GD carefully prepares each lesson, and the lesson content is agreed with the student at the start of each lesson. Lessons usually cover technique, keyboard and/or accompaniment skills and repertoire.
- c) GD will follow up the lesson by sending any required exercises, worksheets etc. promptly and efficiently.
- d) Lessons start and end punctually (see below).
- e) Occasionally there might be a second teacher present at a lesson (e.g. a trainee teacher, or another colleague who is conducting a peer review). If a student is unhappy about the prospect of a second teacher they must notify GD who will ensure that this situation does not arise.
- f) Students are welcome to make a recording of any part of their lesson, provided that they confine the playing of any such recording to their personal and private use.

7) **Documentation**

- a) Lesson Application.
GD may request students to submit an informal application letter/email before their first lesson with him. This gives him essential information and saves valuable time in the lesson.
- b) Lesson Records
GD encourages students to maintain records of their lessons, including homework assignments and any additional follow-up work.

- c) Progress Review
 - i) GD encourages students to talk about their own progress and address any needs they may have with him. If they wish, they are welcome to leave a positive review.
 - ii) GD encourages feedback, spoken or written, to benefit both teachers and students.

SAFEGUARDING - Young students

- a) Students under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult when lessons are to take place in GD's private studio.
- b) GD's studio is situated in his private home, on the second floor of a period property on the High Street in Lambourn. All students are respectfully requested to be aware of this arrangement and make any concerns known to GD as soon as possible.
- c) Parents/guardians of students under 18 years are always warmly encouraged to attend the lessons.
- d) GD encourages all his younger students to attend the many group tuition events run by the Royal College of Organists for them.

8) Lesson administration

- a) Lesson appointments and payment
 - i) Each lesson is booked and paid for individually at least 48 hours in advance.
 - ii) A lesson is not confirmed until payment has been received.
 - iii) Lesson rates are not advertised publicly and are not negotiable.
- b) Lessons cancelled or missed by the student.
 - i) Provided that the student has cancelled at least 48 hours in advance of the appointment:
 - (1) GD will normally offer a full refund or a replacement lesson.
 - (2) A student who persistently cancels will be offered a full refund, but may be refused a further lesson appointment, at the discretion of GD.
 - ii) Lessons cancelled by the student at less than 48 hours may be refunded, part-refunded, replaced or part-replaced at GD's discretion, but there is no obligation to do so.
 - iii) If the student misses their lesson due to a misunderstanding or confusion of the time or date of appointment, reference should be made to the confirmation email of the appointment. If GD cannot produce the confirmation, then GD will offer a replacement lesson and an additional lesson of equal length for no fee.
 - iv) If the student arrives late for the lesson GD is under no obligation to make up the lost time.

- c) Lessons **cancelled or missed**, or part-missed by GD
 - i) If GD cancels more than 48 hours before the lesson, he will offer the option of a full refund or a replacement appointment.
 - ii) In the case of unforeseen travel/ sickness issues arising for GD within 48 hours of a pre-paid lesson appointment, GD will negotiate with the student, rescheduling or recompensing as seems appropriate and agreeable.
 - iii) GD takes punctuality seriously and will make every effort to begin lessons on time. If he is unable to do so, any lesson time lost by the student will be made up at their mutual convenience.
 - iv) If GD fails to appear without good reason for a confirmed lesson, he will offer a replacement lesson or a full refund plus an additional complimentary lesson.

9) **Additional services**

- a) GD is happy to answer brief questions by email between lessons.

10) **Changing teachers**

- a) Students are very welcome to take an occasional lesson with or to make a long-term change to another teacher. GD is never offended when this happens.

11) **Academic lessons** (aural, stylistic techniques, historical studies, GCSE, A-Level)

- a) GD usually offers lessons in four ways:
 - i) Lessons in person only
 - ii) Lessons by Zoom or other video-calling service
- b) Payment
 - i) Payment is due for the lesson booked at least 3 days before the lesson. A lesson is not confirmed until payment has been received.

12) **Ceasing tuition**

- a) GD reserves the right to discontinue or refuse to give lessons without giving a reason.
- b) Students may cease tuition at any time without giving notice.

13) **Classes, Events and Courses**

- a) GD urges all students to consider attending RCO or similar classes, events and courses from time to time.