

**Montpelier Strings Studio**  
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AND  
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Montpelier, VT 05602  
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Welcome!

I am very happy to be teaching you or your child. I hope that you will find yourself enjoying lessons as much as I enjoy teaching them. I have organized some information about me and my teaching style, plus a little about the work that we will do together.

**Bob's Biography:** Well-known cellist, recitalist, conductor, and cello and bass teacher **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 collaborates with the pianist Diane Huling in concerts throughout the region, is the Music Director of the Green Mountain Youth Symphony, and boasts dozens of cello students in his home studio of Montpelier, Vermont.

Robert Blais is well known as a fun teacher! 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.

**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.** I will, however, accept words like "challenging" or "difficult".

You can do anything!

**Expectations of your teacher:**

- 1) You can expect me to give 100%.
- 2) You can expect me to help you to reach your goals. Remember, your teacher is your employee.
- 3) You can expect me to try to answer any questions that you might have.
- 4) You can expect me 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 \$30 late fee will be charged)

- 1/2 hour lessons: \$150/month
- 3/4 hour lessons: \$225/month
- 1 hour lessons: \$300/month
- 1 hour lessons on less-than weekly basis: \$100/hour
- 1 hour chamber group: \$100/hr

I 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 I miss lessons for *any reason*, I will give you credit for it the following month or schedule a make-up lesson. If you miss a lesson for *any reason*, I 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 and I'll provide you with the schedule and contact information so that you are able to do so; please let me know if this happens. If you choose to discontinue lessons, I will need at least a month's notice. That, in a nutshell, is the way this studio works. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Thank you!  
Bob