

Sandy Stickland

Hi Sandy,

At Saugeen Music School we clearly see that Dre is a remarkable young man. His musical progress is on pace with the best young musicians I have taught. That's an evaluation based upon thousands of lessons. We've also played 100's of gigs with many pro's and feel qualified to comment that the raw and un-skilled Dre shares something innate with a small group of students and skilled amateurs that would evolve into Players.

Of course, you might not hear that as Dre works at his musical studies because like many newbies he has a wheelbarrow full of timing issues and lacks harmonic understanding- but holy smokes, Sandy, he is learning fast. April's jaw dropped on Friday as Dre self-corrected his riffs (and she is not very jaw droppy.) "Nice tone!" she gasped.

We're heading out of town tomorrow so there won't be any further lessons this week. A week Friday, however, we plan to resume our small band class that has been Dre, April, and myself exploring our horns. As Covid lightens, the group should expand. (We'll be back on the weekend, so Tuesday is still on.)

Typically, my band class students are asked to pick up other instruments for a few minutes here and there. A guitarist may be on keys, a drummer on bass, a bassist now singing- you name it. This "cross pollination" produces terrific benefits, particularly when a student is keen to record. Learning the Saxophone will make Dre a better Rapper. The "Beats" he is looking for will be ingrained. And maybe one day it's a Hip Hop tune he's producing that needs an R&B feel and out comes the old Sax, the charts, etc.- and the knowledge that comes with it.

Quite frankly we have the gear (and expertise) to demo any kind of song in our back rooms. This is a carrot we might hold for Dre. Not that he needs it Sandy, for he is motivated, but it is definitely a way we can help him achieve.

If you are able to rent an Alto Sax for a month or two, he'll benefit greatly from it. All horns are not the same. Even two of the same model will play differently, and a lack of consistency becomes an issue. We recognise that this is a big ask on our part for you to rent a horn and also double his lesson fees, so we'd be willing to waive the lesson fees on Fridays, if it means being you are able to outfit him with a horn (about \$40/month from Long & McQuade). Oh sure, he'll still be welcome with whatever horn the school gives him if you are not inclined at this time to indulge our request, because, after-all, this is about Dre and his musical journey! On Tuesdays, he'll be expected once more to bring his guitar. I hope you don't mind if I teach him to wail like BB King!

Call me any time if you wish to discuss any of this. Thanks for your time!

Lindon