

Can I just record at the studio's hourly rate?

Of course it is possible. However, much thought has gone into making the package deals very reasonable for the end product. With many years of recording experience, practically everyone misjudges how long it takes to record a work – it always takes twice as long as initially imagined.

For example, a two-hour recording session with 2 microphones:	
2 microphones @ \$75/hour	\$150.00
Piano Tuning -- required for every session* (see below)	75.00
Editing for 30 minutes (approximately 3 edits)	37.50
Mix and Mastering for 15 minutes -- a conservative estimate	18.75
1 CD Master in a Jewel Case	10.00
No Artwork	0
Total	\$291.25

Or, to look at the overall cost from another angle:

An additional 1.25 hours of recording time (totaling to 4 hours) is only \$110 more for the discount package rate; plus the professional artwork is included at no "extra" charge.

FYI, most clients have shared that a two hour recording session "feels" frantic to complete a project – not an ideal scenario for a young performer trying to maintain focus and relaxation with undue stress.