

Vocal Master Class for the Female Voice

- Group class of no more than 4 people
- Hybrid design with a private and a group component
- Age Group: Females 12-18
- Skill Level: Intermediate to advanced (please note this is not a beginner level class)
- Length of Class: 6 Weeks
- Price: \$150.00 plus the purchase price of the individual recital piece from SheetMusicDirect

Class Format

This masterclass is a unique set up, consisting of both live, group instruction and individual preparation / instruction. Students will learn various body and vocal training techniques that they will individually apply to a song of their choice (the students will have to sign up and get their song approved by April before beginning to work on it. The song does need to include sheet music and an audio accompaniment track, no a cappella work, and no singing with a Youtube video). This class will be using SheetMusicDirect to have each student purchase their individual pieces.

Each week they will be asked to complete the group work as well as the individual practice work for the song. They will record themselves via video practicing the song and submit their recording each week. April will review the recording and send a video recording of individual feedback on what needs to be improved and what should be kept the same. At the end of the 6 weeks, there will be a final recital for each student to show off their individual songs and hard work.

The class is formatted this way to encourage self reflection, give the students an opportunity to get to pick a song that really resonates with them. This way the students will have the opportunity to directly see how vocal technique and pedagogy directly connect to a song while strengthening and growing their technique slowly each week, setting students up for a greater level of success

Class Meeting

We will meet each week via Zoom. April takes students' privacy very seriously, so all students who are enrolled will be emailed the private Zoom link and password that is not to be shared with anyone.

Classes will last for 30 minutes at the designated posted dates and times.

Weekly Class Breakdown / Syllabus

1. Week 1

- Getting to know each student, sharing experience, setting goals, class breakdown and selecting songs. April will go through SheetMusicDirect and how the platform works. Each student will be using this website to purchase their recital pieces.
- Homework - The students will be asked to submit their proposal for their recital pieces. Once you receive the approval from April, you will be asked to purchase your individual pieces.

2. Week 2 - Body Awareness and Alignment

- Please come wearing something comfortable that you can move in, and that fully covers you.
- We'll be using various breathing and yoga techniques to root down through the feet while engaging the core, booty and thighs.
- We'll learn how to keep the shoulders relaxed and drawn back, jaw and neck relaxed and elongated.
- These will all be super important elements as you sing, support from the body, relaxation, and how to properly utilize your muscles will not only help create a strong sound, but also a healthy voice.
- You'll be given a warm up this week to incorporate the body and the voice.
- Students will also be asked to incorporate these techniques into the beginning of their songs.

3. Week 3 - Ear Training

- This week we will be focusing on sight singing and training the ear. Students will not be given material in advance, so everything will be done in class.
- Each student will be given a vocal passage, and we will start to map out / analyze the direction the melody is going.
- Then we'll take this passage and listen to it, humming along with the melody line.
- Finally, the students will sing through the passage.

- Now that they have the general layout and technical knowhow, they will be given a few new passages to try their skills on analyzing / mapping, listening / humming, and then singing.
- Homework will be new vocal passages to master using the methodology listed above.
- This skillset will be incorporated into their continued song preparation as they add a new section for the week.

4. Week 4 - Vocal Etude / Short Song Selection

- We'll be taking the concepts of body alignment, ear training, vocal accuracy and support and put it together into a short song selection / vocal etude for the week
- The students will work together to map out, assess, listen to and sing through the piece.
- Today we will discuss self reflection - how do you know if you're doing it correctly, how do you check yourself on the various items we've been learning, how do you improve upon challenges you're having.
- The homework for the week will be to record and analyze yourself each time you practice. Keep a journal, and watch each recording, what went well, and what needs to be improved upon?
- This skillset should be utilized for each individual song as we get closer to the final performance day.

5. Week 5 - Dress Rehearsal

- Each student will have an opportunity to sing through their recital piece for the class. This is going to give everyone a feel for live performance as well as any last minute tidbits of advice / words of encouragement from classmates.
- We'll discuss vibes of each of the songs, outfit choice that fits the song, and general performance that each student is trying to achieve.
- Homework will be to submit their final performance videos for feedback before the actual live performance.

6. Week 6 - Recital

- Each student will have the opportunity to sing for the class.
- The recital will be recorded and recordings will be sent to the families. They will not be shared publicly.