

Teaching Philosophy

The voice is a unique and beautiful instrument filled with a range of emotional colors. As a teacher, it is my responsibility to guide students through their individual journey in the study of their voice. This is a personal journey for each singer, where the teacher must take into consideration the whole person. One must consider the training of the voice, mind, body, and learning style for each of their students. It is important to keep an open dialogue with each of my students on their journey, so they can see and hear their own progress with regard to their goals. This open dialogue helps to build confidence, trust, and understanding in all of my students. With this supportive and honest environment, one can begin to build a strong foundation to explore the voice together.

As both a performer and pedagogue, I bring to my students an understanding of the art form and the science of singing. My primary goal for each student is to find their natural voice, which will be free of manipulation and healthy to use for the rest of their life. I believe that each student is unique, and one must clearly observe and develop their understanding of their own vocal instrument. This understanding is achieved through a clear dialogue about anatomy, physiology, acoustics, and the concepts of healthy singing. Through guided development, I offer practice materials to develop the crucial vocal skills of breath management, resonance, flexibility, agility, dynamic control, and strength. I want them to understand the fundamentals of a proper and healthy vocal technique, so that they can progress to achieve their singing goals. With each of our lessons, I strive to help each of my students understand the juxtaposition of their instrument to the varied musical repertoire in our lessons.

My goal in the classroom is to always encourage students to understand music from a variety of perspectives. I strive to achieve this understanding by facilitating discussion in our classroom environment, where I serve as a moderator and guide for the topic. I challenge my students with readings, scores, and scholarly materials to promote their growth of knowledge on the subject for discussion. In addition, I encourage a use of multimedia resources and on-line tutorials for group discussions, special projects, and practice exercises. Within our discussions, I am able to create links with my knowledge and expertise to strengthen their curiosity and understanding of the materials. Throughout the discussion and analysis of our course work, I challenge my students to use their critical thinking skills to examine what they see and hear in our classroom environment. As an instructor, I want my students to feel safe and open to be able to express themselves in our classroom. I encourage my students to be successful and active learners, who will take hold of their education with the goal to become life-long learners and performers.