

12/9/2015



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VOCAL VISIONS AMENITIES

Please take time to appreciate the amenities you enjoy with Vocal Visions!

Performances are important to the process of learning a performing art such as voice, theater or piano. A number of these are open to you throughout the year.

LESSON PROGRAM: Students taking voice are regularly working on posture, breath, and support in both classical & modern vocal techniques. Students sing a varied repertoire, including foreign languages, and are introduced to historical contexts for classical works. Grades 6-12 also work on theory and sight singing as a weekly exercise, audition skills, All State Choir audition requirements, and ear training.

Piano students learn healthy body posture, hand positioning, and arm & body movement for piano. They work on music theory concurrent with their pieces in a varied repertoire covering a broad spectrum of historical periods. Ages 6-10 use cross body movement to encourage integration of the right and left hemispheres of the brain. They also do rhythm exercises on other instruments help to internalize the beat and divisions of the beat.

CLEAN, POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: I have worked in a number of studios in this town, and have never found a cleaner, more positive environment than that of Calliope Studios. You would have to visit one of the music store studios or other music lesson places in town to appreciate the venue, size of individual studio, recital hall, cleanliness, lower cost, and overall positive learning environment offered both in my home and at Calliope. There are newer lesson places, but none have the larger studio size, recital hall, or lower cost than what we enjoy.

RECITALS:

Vocal Visions Studio Recitals: I sponsor 2 studio recitals per year for all my students. Recitals are an important venue for performance as well as community-building. There is a minimal fee for participation that helps with the cost of providing both the space and the accompanist.

AMTA Sponsored Recitals: I am a member of the Aurora Music Teacher Association (AMTA). A number of recitals are held each year for school-age children. The school-age participants are limited to 6 per recital for each studio, but I try to rotate them throughout the year. The most dedicated of students are the ones that are first in line for participation. Adults enjoy 2 potluck café performances per year in the fall and spring. AMTA recitals and cafes are **free** to you!

Please see <http://www.auroramusicteachers.org/> for information on AMTA sponsored events.

REFRESHMENTS: Refreshments are provided by Vocal Visions at every performance, but everyone is encouraged to bring something to share.

TEEN NIGHT: AMTA sponsors a night for high school students to perform in a public venue once a month. It is open to all high school students currently studying with any AMTA teacher.

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It is a fun way for teens to perform for their friends and family, work with performance anxiety in a nurturing environment, hone their pieces to audition-readiness, and to make new friends.

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES: These are performances in the community at retirement centers, nursing homes, and possibly shopping malls and other public venues. I do not charge for these performance opportunities, though an accompanist will be with us who will charge my studio. Though some sort of dress/costume code will be established for each of these, it should not require additional purchases.

STUDENT TO STUDENT PERFORMANCES: Twice a year the students gather to perform only for each other. Accompaniment will be either by me or on their CDs. These gatherings are free to you, but occur only if I have at least 10 students signed up to come. Refreshments are on a pot-luck basis.

WORKSHOPS: Periodically, I sponsor workshops on specific subjects such as Master Classes, Performance Anxiety, Musical Theater Auditioning, and Music Theory classes. Some of them are taught by me, others by specialists I bring in to enhance your learning. I offer these workshops to support your growth as students, in some cases, at a greatly reduced price from what you would have to pay otherwise for this information. Some workshops are available through NATS & AMTA as well as competitions and Achievement Day.

ACHIEVEMENT DAY: AMTA sponsors an annual event in which school-age music students have the opportunity to play music games, to test their knowledge of music history, ear training and theory at their level, and to perform for another teacher of their instrument for an evaluation. It is a fun way to be in front of a “judge” without the pressure of competition, while receiving valuable outside feedback on both the great aspects of their work and those that are in process and how to address them. Always held on a Saturday in the fall, this day is one to sign up for, prepare for, and to look forward to! **Achievement Day is a requirement for all school-age piano students** and is strongly encouraged for all voice students age 13-18. It is held in the fall and requires preparation in music, music history, ear training & theory. There is a small fee involved to cover prizes, the hall, and pianos we must rent for the event.

COMPETITIONS: Singing and playing competitions are sponsored by the associations I belong to: AMTA (The Aurora Music Teachers Association), CMTA (Colorado Music Teachers Association), and NATS (The National Association of the Teachers of Singing). Competitions give students a goal to work toward (an invaluable tool for progress), an opportunity to develop a sense of accomplishment and self-confidence, and résumé material upon winning! They are strongly advised for students intending to study music in college, as these national organizations are well known and respected, and the experience prepares you for college and scholarship auditions. All competitions have fees associated with them, and involve paying accompanist fees for vocal students, but are well worth the investment. Many teachers do not belong to associations such as these because dues are fairly pricey. However, I find it is important for my students to have these opportunities to grow, and I keep my own skills honed and knowledge base growing through the conventions and workshops they provide for me as a teacher.

You are well cared for at Vocal Visions!!

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VOCAL VISIONS POLICIES

Attached is a policy form to sign and give back to me. You may make quarterly payments for a 10% discount. These policies have been established in order to create a less frenetic schedule and more dependability for all of us.

STUDENT PROGRESS: *I have found this policy ensures that students stay on track with their advancement. They are far less likely to miss lessons, more likely to practice regularly and to progress faster than they do when they know they can cancel at any time.*

PAYMENT

DUE DATE

Payment is **due in advance at the LAST LESSON of the month prior**. The very first lesson ever taken is due at the time of the lesson along with the advance for the rest of the month if the student plans to continue. Payments are requested monthly; quarterly payments are accepted and will receive a 10% discount. There is a \$5 charge for late payments after the 5th of the month.

PRICE

Lessons are based on a **monthly tuition**, not per lesson. They are reasonably priced at \$100/mo for a ½ hour once a week, \$150 for 45 minute lessons and \$200/mo for hour lessons. This is based on 4 lessons per month, but is, again, a monthly tuition and remains the same whether or not all the lessons were taken. Credits are not given per lesson except in specified cases listed below.

Ask me about the Discount available for referring new students to the studio!

MAKE-UP LESSONS

24 hour notice is required for make-up lessons. Make-up lessons (rescheduling) are offered but not guaranteed. They are difficult when a studio is full, as time is less available. **Students are far less likely to practice and progress if there is a question about when they have their lessons.** Please be sure that the time you schedule is a time you can arrange without difficulty and that routine doctor/dentist appointments etc. are not scheduled during lesson times. Continued requests for makeup lessons will not be honored. Make up lessons take the place of lessons missed and cannot be rolled into the next month as “payment” for future lessons.

In a month that has 5 weeks, the extra days are either used for competitions with students or for a needed respite. If you receive an extra lesson for free in a 5-week period, you may consider it a “lesson in the bank” for some other lesson missed, or you can take a week off for family, etc. If there is a holiday during the 5-wk period, the holiday is taken.

EXCEPTION: Students who are participating in school musicals or must be out for a performance are allowed a reduction in lesson price for the time when lessons are not possible (or a rescheduling of your permanent time slot if possible). In such a case, students often find it possible to continue lessons until Tech Week right before performances. These performances are what we work toward, and are the only exception to the regular policy. This exception will NOT be extended to sports or other non-performing arts activities.

1. **CANCELLATIONS:** No make-up lessons are available if less than 24 hours notice is given. Though the tuition is on a monthly basis, a call is appreciated if you cannot make a lesson. A 2-week notice is requested for discontinuance of lessons.

2. **VACATIONS:** If I am gone on vacation beyond the 5-days-in-a-month scenario, makeup lesson days will be offered both prior and after the vacation to suit your needs. For students, a vacation period per year of up to 4 weeks (lessons) will be credited to you and your spot will be held, or 4 lessons spaced throughout the year. Please notify me of your plans in advance and that the credit is expected for that period of time.
 3. **ILLNESS:** Often when students are actually not able to sing they can still play piano or work on music theory, note naming, composition, picking out new music, working on language pronunciation, theory, rhythm, music signs and symbols, etc. If a student has been ill and not able to practice, there is still plenty we can work on. Please do not bring a student with a fever.
 4. **HOLIDAYS:** Holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah and Ramadan are included in the yearly vacation time period. Please see above for that policy. I will offer a make-up day for these lessons with a specific sign-up sheet if the holiday occurs in a month that does not have 5 sessions. Otherwise, the lesson will be credited to you in the month it occurs if I am not available to teach makeup lessons.
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