

What You Can Expect to Learn

CinCyr School of Voice & Music - Cindy St. Cyr
713-464-SING (7464)

My goal is to help the student develop the proper singing skills necessary to bring out the gifts and talents within them and to enable them to express those gifts and talents in a variety of ways that are fulfilling to the student's life, career and audience.

As a voice teacher, I will teach students how to sing. Students will learn the fundamentals of proper posture and breathing, how to warm-up effectively, proper tone and diction, how to expand your vocal range, how to blend well with others, vocal health, music appreciation, and the basics of music theory, sight-singing and ear training. **As a vocal coach**, I will teach students how to perform the songs they sing by developing performance skills through interpretation and performance techniques.

Singing provides a wide variety of goals and interests to each individual student as well as a wide variety of skills necessary to accomplish this well. Below are some of the topics a student can expect to learn. These topics can be learned over a period of time as we cover them during voice lessons. Other ways to learn more in a shorter period of time can be accomplished by attending workshops as they are offered in a group setting. Below is a brief description of what a student can expect to learn during voice lessons and workshops.

Posture and Breathing - Proper posture and breathing skills are essential to good singing and longevity of the voice. When these principles are in proper working order, or at least in the process of becoming so, all of the other aspects of singing will work better.

Proper Warm-Up Techniques - Warming up the voice properly before singing is critical to every aspect of singing. Like an athlete would warm-up before running a marathon, a vocalist must warm-up the vocal mechanism.

Tone - Tone refers to the quality and characteristics of your vocal sound. This is where you find your own sound. Discover whether it is dark, bright, thin, throaty, full, rich, pinched, nasal, tiny, breathy, harsh, annoying hoarse, gravelly, cracking, etc. Whatever it is we will work with it to develop and fine-tune those qualities and characteristics so that you may express it and to get it where you want it to be.

Diction - Diction refers to the way you package your words through pronunciation, enunciation, and articulation. Proper diction can change the way you sound in no time.

Expanding Your Range - Expanding your range should be a goal for every singer. Vocal ranges are different for each individual. We will find your comfortable vocal range and then work towards gradually increasing that range in a slow and safe way to insure vocal longevity and health of the voice.

Blending with Others - Learn how to blend with others to produce a well-balanced oneness. This does not necessarily come naturally. It takes time and practice to develop unity in the areas of feeling, timing, tone, etc...

Performance Skills - This topic covers a wide variety of performance skills. You will learn how to choose songs that are right for you, how to choose an appropriate key, song interpretation, expression and gestures, performance preparation, how to know your audience and how that affects your performance, microphone techniques, audition techniques, CD recording projects, working with soundmen, performing venues, and more.

Music Appreciation - Students will learn how to research the music they have chosen to perform. They will learn about the songwriters and lyricists, the musical style of the song, the show it was from, the time period in which it was written, awards it may or may not have won, the artists who performed the song, etc...

Vocal Health - Learn how to take proper care of your voice through proper diet and exercise, as well as rest and relaxation. Learn how not to abuse the voice, how to decrease vocal strain, how to deal with allergies, colds, and laryngitis, proper hydration, and more.

Basic Music Theory - Here the student will learn the basics of music theory that are necessary for every singer to know. Topics will include pitches on the keyboard and on the staff, major and minor scales, key signatures, time signatures, intervals, chords, rhythm, etc... Students will also learn how to read sheet music and charts.

Sight Singing & Ear Training - We used to call it "sight screaming and ear straining" for fun. This is a challenging process that takes time and practice to learn. It is important however, to have at least a basic understanding of this topic. Learn to sing music by either the movable "do" or the number system. Learn to recognize intervals and sing them as well.