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# VOICE STUDIO POLICY

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Christina Kerstan, soprano

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## 1. STUDIO OBJECTIVES

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- To cultivate a healthy vocal technique through exercises and various styles of repertoire.
- To encourage and foster the understanding and appreciation of various musical styles and concepts.
- To set and achieve goals; varying based on the individual.
- To encourage professionalism and respect in the studio, in performance, and in other venues involving vocal study, repertoire, and performance.

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## 2. PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND TUITION

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- The price of tuition includes guarantees **46 lessons** over a 12-month period. Recital fees, recordings, and other essentials (i.e. notebook, binder, sheet music, scores) are not included in the tuition price.
- Along with the lessons, CMA students also receive **36 hours of performances class** and **36 hours of technique class**.
- Fees vary based on length of the lesson. An appropriate lesson length will be decided on an individual basis. In general, a younger student may benefit from shorter lessons. Older students will benefit from added time, especially if the student is preparing for an audition (college, opera, show choir, musical, etc.).
  - 30 minute      \$130/month
  - 45 minute      \$190/month
- **Tuition is due the first lesson of every month.**
- If payment occurs later than the second lesson of the month, a \$10 late fee is added.
- I accept cash, check, and mobile payments. Checks should be made payable to **Christina Kerstan**. You can find me on Venmo @Christina-Kerstan.

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## 3. REGISTRATION

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- There is are yearly registration fees for both CMA and myself.
- Cincinnati Music Academy charges an annual registration fee that is separate from monthly tuition payments. That fee is:
  - \$30 per year for one student
  - \$50 per year for two students
  - \$70 per year for three or more students (per family)
- Students enrolled with multiple teachers pay only one registration fee to CMA. The registration fee is payable by check to Cincinnati Music Academy and is due by September 1st or whenever a new student begins studying at CMA.

- I have a yearly registration fee of **\$15** also due September 1<sup>st</sup> or when lessons commence.

#### 4. ATTENDANCE/MAKEUPS

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- To complete the 46 allotted lessons for the year, 3-4 lessons need to be completed each month.
- Tuition **will not** be prorated or credited for missed lessons.
- If a student is a **NO-SHOW** or if a lesson is cancelled by the student with less than **24-hours notice**, the lesson will be forfeited and the tuition will not be refunded for the missed lesson.
- A makeup lesson may not always be necessary if a student is on track or ahead with lessons. If the student is falling behind on their lessons, I would be happy to schedule a makeup if requested by the student or parent. I do log students' lessons and will refer to that log to determine if a makeup is necessary.
- Excessive absences due to severe illness or family emergency will be handled on a case-by-case basis

#### 5. TERMINATION OF STUDY

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- You may cancel lessons (temporarily or permanently) by notifying me **one month** before you intend to terminate lessons.
- If notification takes place after this, you are still responsible for paying the next month's tuition, and any tuition already paid will not be refunded.
- I reserve the right to terminate lessons if it is in the best interest of both the student and the teacher. Issues warranting dismissal might include:
  - Repeated failure to read and abide by materials/policies distributed, including parents and guardians.
  - Repeated failure to attend lessons.
  - Repeated failure to prepare for lessons.
  - Repeated offenses of inappropriate and/or disrespectful behavior
  - Inconsiderate/unfair comments or critiques of your singing colleagues.
  - Failure to pay tuition.

#### 6. EXPECTATIONS

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- A practice regime outside of the lesson is necessary for growth and improvement.
  - Aim to practice repertoire and exercises 4 days a week for 20 minutes
  - If you are tired or ill, practice also includes:
    - Listening to recordings
    - Practicing musicianship skills
    - Translation of text in a foreign language(if applicable)
    - Memorization
    - Character analysis
- Voice students will also be expected to learn musical notation and hone basic skills on the piano. These skills are crucial for practicing, especially while learning new repertoire.

- A recording device is a helpful tool to use (such as a personal voice recorder, iPhone, FlipVideo, etc.). A student can record their lessons and refer to them later during practice time.
- Like our friends who play piano, violin, and other instruments, we need to take care of our instrument, which is our body! Illness prevention, adequate hydration, and plenty of sleep are all great things to keep your instrument working beautifully!

## 7. PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

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- Throughout the course of the year, if numbers permit, we will hold at least one studio recital.
- Students will be encouraged to perform at least one piece on a recital. Performances allow students to showcase their hard work and talent for loved ones and would be a good venue to practice for performances and auditions outside of the studio.
- There may be some additional small fees involved (accompanist fees, hall rental).

## 8. MATERIALS/MUSIC

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- For lessons, students are expected to bring:
  - 3-ring binder
  - All sheet music given
  - Water
  - Pencil
  - Loose leaf notebook paper or a spiral notebook for taking notes
- I will assign repertoire for study based on student's interests, ability, and fach.
- I am open to students' suggestions for repertoire they would like to perform and will advise the student if a specific piece of music is appropriate for them at that time
- Below is a list of resources as to where a student can obtain sheet music and scores
  - Books can be found on websites like [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)
  - Websites like [IMSLP](https://www.imslp.com), [CPDL](https://www.cpdl.org) or [Art Song Central](https://www.art-song.com) are public domain and provide free sheet music.
  - Websites like [musicnotes.com](https://www.musicnotes.com) has a variety of different songs available for purchase and can be transposed into different keys.

## 9. INSTRUCTOR BIO

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Christina Kerstan completed her Bachelor of Music Performance degree at Susquehanna University, where she studied with Dr. Nina Tober, and has recently completed her Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She is currently studying with Kenneth Shaw at CCM. Christina has also participated in the Johanna Meier Opera Theater Institute in South Dakota and was a student resident artist at Niigata University in Japan.

Christina's operatic performance experience includes Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus*), Miss Wingrave (*Owen Wingrave*), and Ginevra (*Ariodante*). She also operatic scene working performing the roles of Countess Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Blanche de la Force (*The Dialogues of the Carmelites*), and the Governess (*The Turn of the Screw*), and covering Salud (*La Vida Breve*).

Christina is equally enthusiastic about sharing her knowledge and love of music with others, being on faculty at Loveland Music Academy, Cincinnati Music Academy, and Thomas More College. Her students can expect to learn about vocal technique and vocal health, to be exposed to a wide variety of repertoire, to come to a greater appreciation for the art of singing, and to have fun!

## STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2: \_\_\_\_\_ 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Concerns/Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

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Other information you wish for me to know:

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read the policies of Christina Kerstan's Voice Studio and will adhere to them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student or Parent/Guardian if student is under 18

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date