

Elise Brancheau

Voice Studio Policy

How much does a lesson cost?

- For a 60-minute lesson, the cost is \$75. I accept either cash or checks. The payment is due at the beginning of each lesson. I reserve the right to postpone any future lessons if I have not received payment for a completed lesson.

What is included in a lesson?

- The first time we meet, we will have a combination of a consultation and a lesson. You can bring in a piece of music that you know well, or something that you are working on, and you can sing through it during the consultation. This allows me to hear your voice and take note of its strengths and areas that need improvement. We will have a discussion about your goals for these voice lessons, and I will then make suggestions about repertoire for future lessons. If there is time we can do some vocal exercises and perhaps go through sections of the piece you brought with you. The next time we meet we will have a true lesson (please see the next bullet point).
- For the first half of the lesson we will focus on vocal technique. Breath, posture, resonance, legato, vocal agility, support, articulation, vowels, and dynamics are aspects that will be explored and refined through vocal exercises. (These exercises are separate from your song repertoire.) The goal is to develop a healthy, free and expressive sound that is truly your own!
- For the second half of the lesson we will work on the repertoire that you have brought with you. (If you would like me to assign or suggest repertoire, I am more than happy to do so; just ask!) We will work on rhythms, notes, diction (feel free to bring in songs that are not in English!), dramatic interpretation, and overall musical accuracy, incorporating the technical aspects we covered during the first half of the lesson.
 - You can bring in any piece you like, whether it is classical (opera, art song, or choral), musical theatre, pop, jazz, etc. However, if I believe a piece is too advanced for you, I will strongly suggest that we work on something else. I do not want you to damage your voice in any way, and singing inappropriate repertoire can be dangerous, even with a healthy technique.
- Note: Every lesson can be tailored to your specific needs. For example, if you prefer to spend the entire lesson working on technique, or to spend the majority of the lesson working on repertoire that you are preparing for an audition or performance, it is all possible. However, what is listed above is the format of a standard voice lesson.

Who will accompany the lesson?

- I will accompany the lesson on the piano (or keyboard). However, since my primary goal is to focus on your voice, there may be quite a bit of stopping in the middle of your piece to address

any vocal issues that arise. If you are interested in singing straight through your piece several times (which I would recommend if you are preparing for an audition or performance), I will hire a separate pianist for the second half of the lesson.

- **Please note:** I will need at least one week's notice if you would like a separate pianist, and there may need to be some flexibility for all of our schedules to align. There will also be an additional fee of \$30 for hiring a pianist, so I would suggest only using this option if you are extremely prepared musically and wish to "run through" your piece(s) to get the feeling of an audition or performance.

Where are the lessons held?

- If you have a piano or full keyboard in your home, I am able to come to you. I have a car and am able to transport myself to and from lessons. However, if you do not have a piano or keyboard or prefer to not have the lessons in your home, I have a separate location where lessons can be held. You will be responsible for transportation to and from this location if you prefer this option.

Cancellation Policy

- Cancellations must be made **at least 24 hours in advance** (but please let me know earlier if possible) either via phone or e-mail.
- If you do not cancel within 24 hours or do not show up at a scheduled lesson, you will be charged the full lesson rate.
 - Only personal/family emergencies, local/national emergencies, and other immediately related unforeseen and unpredictable events are the exception.
- If I must cancel a lesson, I will make it up at a later date. You will not be charged for any lesson that I cancel.

Expectations

- I expect you to come to the lesson with your music and a pencil. **Please bring two copies of each piece you plan to work on: one for you and one for me (unless I have notified you otherwise).** I highly encourage you to take notes during the lesson in your score or on a separate piece of paper, and, if you have a recorder, to record the lesson to listen to later. These are all extremely useful practices in retaining the material covered in the lesson.
- I expect you to come to the lesson with your music prepared. I can help you with trouble spots and with diction (especially foreign languages), but I do not want you to be sight-reading in the lesson. It is not an efficient use of our time together.
- I expect you to practice outside of the lesson. Singing is an art form that requires diligent work. I understand that you may be busy, but if you come to a lesson with the same mistakes as last time, it will not be beneficial to either of us.
- I expect you to take your singing seriously, but also to have fun! I want this to be a pleasant and enriching experience, one that will fuel your enthusiasm for singing. Always feel free to ask me

questions, to let me know how you are feeling, and to express concern; I am here to help you. If at any time you feel uncomfortable during the lesson, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Contact Information

- I can be reached either by phone: (973) 534-0927, or by e-mail: elisebrancheau@gmail.com. You may also contact me via my website, www.elisebrancheau.com. I will respond to you within 24 hours of receiving your call or e-mail, unless I have previously notified you that I will be unavailable.
- When you contact me to schedule your first consultation/lesson, I will ask for your preferred method of communication, and will use that phone number and/or e-mail address to contact you in the future.