

# AR Voice Studio

*Policies: 2023-2024 Academic Year*

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## Lessons – Academic Year 2022-2023

Lessons will begin as early as Monday August 21<sup>st</sup> and will conclude on Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>, except for students taking lessons at Liberty High School. Those will finish on Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be some breaks where the studio is closed (generally following the University of Iowa calendar). See the studio calendar on the website for more information.

More information about potential summer lessons will be available in the spring.

To be most effective, lessons should occur on a weekly basis.

## Practice Expectations

To reinforce and build upon the skills you develop during lessons, it is expected that students practice each week. A general guide to follow is:

Beginner-Level: 20-30 minutes 3 or more times per week, including warm-up time

Intermediate-Level: 30 minutes 4 or more times per week, including warm-up

Advanced-Level: 30-45+ minutes 5 or more times per week, including warm-up

## Time Slots

Please be on time for your lesson. All virtual lessons will occur over Zoom. Any technical difficulties with Zoom should be communicated via text immediately. Depending on space and availability, it may be possible to alter your time. This should be done in emergency situations only. Any switching of times **must** be communicated at least 24 hours prior to the first of those lessons. It is a student's responsibility to communicate changes to the instructor in a timely manner. To see open slots, please click on "Availability" in the Policies section on the studio website ([www.arvoicestudio.com](http://www.arvoicestudio.com)).

Any cancellation of lessons **must** be communicated to the instructor **at least two (2) hours prior to your lesson time**. Otherwise, all fees will be owed.

If there is an emergency within two hours of your lesson, contact the instructor by phone immediately to discuss this situation. Solutions will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

## Cancelled Lessons

Students may miss up to four lessons **so long as the lessons are cancelled within the appropriate time frame**. This constitutes a cancelled lesson. Efforts will be made to reschedule such lessons, but this depends on the student's and instructor's schedules.

If the instructor needs to cancel lessons due to illness, emergency, etc., families will not be charged for those lessons, and efforts will be made to reschedule those lessons.

## "No Show" Lessons

A "no show" lesson is one in which no attempt was made to cancel the lesson in the appropriate time frame, or one in which the student does not show up. For weekly lessons, the instructor will wait 10 minutes into your slot. After that time, the lesson will be counted as a "no show." "No show" lessons may **not** be made up. **All such lessons are charged the full amount, and no refunds will be offered.**

## Fees

The fee structure is as follows:

30-minute lesson - \$30

45-minute lesson - \$45

60-minute lesson - \$60

*All fees are the same regardless of the type of lesson (voice, conducting, acting coaching) or manner of instructional delivery (in person or virtual).*

Payment will be collected in one of three ways:

- 1) On a monthly basis, due by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month
- 2) On a bi-weekly basis, due by the Monday of the 1<sup>st</sup> week in that sequence
- 3) On a weekly basis, due prior to the start of the lesson

A late fee of 10% will be assessed for any late payments. If two payments are missed, and arrangements are not made, your spot will be forfeited.

Primary payment methods are cash, check, PayPal, and Venmo. If you pay by check, please contact the instructor to make arrangements. A \$25 fee will apply to any returned checks.

When registering for lessons, parents or adult students should indicate (a) how they are paying and (b) when they are paying so appropriate steps can be taken by the instructor.

Depending on the specific music that is being studied and the goals of the student, he/she may need to purchase vocal books and/or sheet music. Purchases can be made by the instructor, and families will reimburse these costs. The typical cost for an individual piece of music (say, a musical theatre piece that is downloadable) is \$4-7. A vocal book with several different selections may be \$15-30.

All fees, etc. are the same for students, regardless of age or previous experience.

## Initial Consultation

It is important that you, the student, feel comfortable with the instructor, understand how lessons will work, and determine the goals you want to achieve while studying private voice. To accomplish these things, the first lesson is considered an initial consultation. During this time, you will be asked questions about yourself, asked about your goals and aspirations, asked about the style(s) on which you want to work, and have your vocal range tested. Parents of child or youth students are welcome to sit in on this time. However, during normal lessons, it is best to work one-on-one.

## Ending Lessons/Breaks

Ending lessons is a decision that should be made in consultation with the parents, student, and instructor, or adult student and instructor. There will be no refunds if this occurs in the middle of a stretch of lessons, if paid. The instructor reserves the right to end lessons should there be a habitual string of no practicing or lack of payment.

## Solo and Ensemble

Solo and Ensemble is a great event for students to get performance experience. Students will be encouraged to work on repertoire that is appropriate for this event during their lessons, though this is not required. Should students wish to compete, they may be entered by their school's choral director. The instructor is NOT able to sign up students himself.

***For local clients only:*** The instructor may or may not be available to accompany students for Solo and Ensemble. This depends on where students attend school. If the instructor does accompany you, a separate fee will be charged for accompanying you for the performance itself. No additional rehearsal fees will be charged, as we will work on the repertoire during lessons.

## Auditions

Students who may need to prepare for college, musical theatre, opera, or other auditions may work on this repertoire during lessons.

## Types of Repertoire

An important aspect of voice lessons is determining your goals and what you want to study. The instructor is versed in classical, opera/oratorio, choral, musical theatre, pop, jazz, folk, and gospel styles. The initial consultation will explore what sorts of things students wish to study and the skills which they wish to develop or enhance.

## Recitals

There is not currently a plan for a studio recital. However, if a particular student wishes to explore performance opportunities, the instructor can assist with exploring options.

## Instructor Background

Doctor of Musical Arts, Choral Conducting and Pedagogy, University of Iowa, expected 2025

Bachelor of Arts *summa cum laude*, vocal performance, Valparaiso University, 2010

Master of Music Teaching, choral/vocal music education, Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, 2011

10 years of public school teaching across grades K-12 in choral and general music settings

Actor, Director, Music Director, Technical Director, and Stage Manager in nearly 20 shows (straight plays, musicals, and opera)

Provided private voice, piano, and French horn lessons (7 years total)

29 years of piano playing, including musical theatre pit orchestras and accompanying soloists and ensembles

28 years of handbell ringing, including 6 years directing

17 years of organ playing

Taken private voice (5 years), piano (4 years), and organ lessons (2 years)

Experienced French horn and tuba player

Award-winning composer, arranger, and educator

When not involved in music, I love to read, spend time with friends and family—especially my wife and son—walk, watch crime shows, and golf