

Schmura Voice Studio Policy 2017-2018

Pedagogical Mission:

As a performer and pedagogue, I believe that singing should not only come from the spirit but also have a mind-body connection. In order to achieve those moments of connection to our audiences and ourselves, I believe that a firm and healthy foundation in technique and personal artistic development are necessary. Through my private studio, my goal is to help those students interested in finding their *voice* through sound technique, artistic insight, and meaningful music making.

- **Age Policy:** No younger than 11 years of age. Exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis.
- **Payments:** Payments must be made at the time of the lesson, or beforehand.
- **Late Policy:** If the student is late to a lesson the time cannot be made up. You will be charged for the full lesson. Please see Johnstonbaugh's Policies for further details.
- **Cancellation Policy:** 24 hour *minimum* notice for lesson cancellation. Emergency situations are judged on a case-by-case basis. Please be respectful of the fact that I teach in multiple locations around the Greater Pittsburgh Area and often have to drive for an hour just to reach one location.
- **Student Materials:**
 - Students will keep a voice journal. After practicing, the student will write down thoughts of how the practice went, take note of any personal discoveries, note any research on their assigned repertoire, or describe any changes/progressions. This tool helps the singer to become independent and critical about their own singing.
 - Students are responsible for maintaining their music in a neat and orderly three ring binder. When appropriate, I will suggest the purchase of sheet music that is appropriate for the student's level. If a student loses their music, they are responsible for reprinting their music for the next lesson.
- **Practicing:** Students are expected to practice daily. Classical vocal technique is accumulative, and therefore must be applied regularly. Singing is just like a sport- it takes practice. I will notice if someone is rusty!
- **Make Up Lessons:**
 - Make-up lessons are unfortunately unavailable at the Johnstonbaugh's Plum location due to scheduling and studio availability.
 - Make-up lessons at other locations will be scheduled at mutually available time, but only with the minimum 24 hour notice.
- **Dismissal:** I reserve the right to dismiss a student from the studio if I observe that they are not practicing, have behavioral issues, or have cancelled too many lessons within the semester. Especially at the Johnstonbaugh's Plum location, studio availability is very limited, and there is often a wait-list for lesson time.