

ONLINE PRIVATE VOICE LESSONS

Advantages of Online Lessons

- No commuting time
- The online dynamic tends to make the time spent very focused
- You receive complementary practice tracks for vocal exercises and song accompaniments
- Regular lessons help support routine and structure (especially while we can't meet in person)
- It's very easy to record and share the lessons securely

Required Components

- Computer, tablet, or phone with webcam and microphone capabilities
- Good Internet connection/high-speed WiFi

Highly Recommended Components

- A second device from which to play audio files & accompaniments (tracks must be played on the students' end and cannot be played from the same device as the video, due to time lag and distortion)
- Your voice binder, lesson log, and pencil (of course!)
- A quiet, well-lit room with limited distractions
- Chargers for the devices you use

Online Lesson Set-Up

- I will send you an email invitation through Zoom, our lesson platform. At your appointed lesson time, click on the invitation link, and Zoom should open in your browser.
- Angle the video camera so that it is raised and facing you squarely. At least your torso and higher should be in view of the camera, but if your whole body can be seen, even better!
- A parent/guardian may help a student set up the video call, but I advise that parents/guardians are not present in the room once the lesson begins.

Helpful Tips

- Prepare your music and tech before the lesson. Make sure you can easily find and play the audio files I sent you. Have your sheet music, binder, and lesson log handy. Charge your devices fully before your lesson.
- The more conversation, the better. Keeping open communication makes things progress much more quickly. I won't know how to help you if I don't know what you are thinking!
- I am a resource for you. If you have questions or concerns regarding technology, the benefits of online lessons, how to navigate this new model of learning, accessing audio files, etc., please reach out to me. I want to make this transition and experience smooth and enjoyable for you.
- You can get accompaniment tracks from several sources. While I do my best to create workable practice files for you, other options include Appcompanionist, PianoTrax, Virtually Vocal (through csmusic.net), and YouTube. We can work together to find the right resource for you.

FAQ's About Online Lessons

Q. Will online lessons be as high quality as in-person lessons?

While there are definite differences between the online and in-person lesson models, the overall quality of voice lessons remains extremely high over online platforms. Most importantly, the online dynamic tends to make the lesson time extremely focused. In addition, the technology set-up and use of practice tracks offers students a renewed sense of ownership over their lesson and practice time. I walk students through audio settings during their first lesson so that we can both experience the highest possible audio quality. My students who regularly take online lessons have shared their excitement over continued and rapid progress.

Q. I'm burnt out from screen fatigue. How will voice lessons be any different than staring at a screen for school or work?

The good news is that you (the singer) don't need to stare at the screen during your lesson! As long as I can see you, there's no need for you to stare at your screen. Voice lessons can offer you a time to step away from your screen and gaze at a beautiful painting on your wall or the view out your window, all the while offering yourself the wonderful gift of singing.

Q. I am NOT tech savvy. Will this be a barrier to taking online lessons?

No! I am happy to help walk you through the technical components of online lessons. So many of us are learning as we go, and I am happy to talk with you in advance to see what might be the most effective course of action for you.

Q. Do I need to purchase an external microphone or speakers?

I don't require my students to purchase any additional audio or visual equipment, but if you wish to purchase an external mic or speakers, you may do so. If you would like recommendations on various products, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Q. Do I need a piano or keyboard?

No. I am happy to provide audio files for you to use when you practice, and we will use my piano during the lesson itself.

Q. Can I do my online lesson from a car?

No. If you are not able to be out of the car by the time of your lesson, please find a swap for that lesson. When requesting your lesson slot, please make sure it is a time that you can consistently be at home if you are planning to do your lesson on Zoom.