



Studio Information & Policy

Voice Lessons

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Who can take voice lessons?

If you're a human, you have a passion for expressing yourself through singing, you are interested in improving your voice and musical understanding, and you are willing to put in the time and effort it takes to do so, you are more than welcome in my studio! No matter your age or experience, I'm excited and grateful for the opportunity to join you on your journey as a singer!

What's it like to take lessons with Thomas Voice Studio?

First and foremost, I believe that building genuine and positive relationships with my students is particularly important in my style of teaching. Besides a sound scientific understanding of the complexities of the singing voice, my favorite teaching tools are creativity, empathy, encouragement, and hilarity. :)

While I always strive to challenge my students as they develop their voices, I never seek to discourage or frustrate. So much can be accomplished by positive reinforcements, gentle adjustments, and the fostering of a safe space for expression, creativity, and self-discovery. My main goal is always to nurture and guide you to a fuller understanding and appreciation of the unique and important instrument you possess. Some ways in which I do this include:

- Introducing repertoire and exercises that are appropriate and healthy for your voice, that challenge you while still allowing you to reach your full potential as a musician
- Giving honest and respectful feedback about the quality of your sound and reinforcing good habits in your vocalism while still providing suggestions for any modifications in quality and technique that could be made
- Assisting you in making stylistic and musical decisions while still respecting and encouraging you to make your own thoughtful interpretations
- Providing you with a supportive, positive, and structured environment conducive to learning and individual growth as a smart musician

What to bring to each lesson

- A sturdy binder to hold your sheet music
- A water bottle
- A pencil to mark your music, write down warm ups and exercises, and take notes when necessary

Paying for voice lessons

Lesson costs vary depending on the length of your lesson and where your lesson takes place.

Our Lord's Lutheran Church Maryville, IL	\$25/ half-hour lesson \$45/ hour lesson
Thomas Voice Studio St. Charles, MO**	
In-Home*	
Virtual (Zoom or Facetime)	

**for in-home lessons, add \$10 monthly travel fee*

Lesson fees should be paid monthly at the first lesson of each month.** Payments are accepted via cash, check (payable to Cady Thomas), Venmo (@Cady-Thomas), or Apple Pay.

******If you know in advance that you have a conflict with one or more of your lesson times in an upcoming month, you need only pay for the lesson you plan to attend.

Scheduling and Attendance

The time slot we choose that works best for both of our schedules is the time you will be booked for each week, barring holidays, severe weather, or other extenuating circumstances. Note that if you're late to your scheduled lesson time, your lesson will still end at the originally booked time and you'll be charged for the full lesson time.

Student Cancellations

Lessons cancelled by a student with 24 hours' notice can be rescheduled or credited toward the next month of lessons. Lessons cancelled without 24 hours' notice will not be refunded. No refunds or discounts are given for no-shows or tardiness. If tardiness exceeds 10 minutes, the lesson is considered a late cancellation/no-show and will be charged as such.

A Note on No-Shows & Cancellations

3 or more no-shows and/or lesson cancellations will result in at least a parent/teacher conference and at most termination of lessons.

Teacher Cancellations

Any lesson cancelled by me can be rescheduled if possible. If a reschedule isn't possible and you have already paid the lesson fee, your payment for that lesson will be credited toward the next month of lessons.

If at any point you choose to stop taking lessons but have already paid for any number of lessons that you no longer plan to attend or have remaining credit from a previous month, no refunds will be given.

Your Responsibilities as a Voice Student

Set aside specific times outside of voice lessons to sing

It's so important that you come to your lessons prepared to sing and to learn! This means you'll need to set aside time outside of designated lessons to learn your music and practice the things we work on in lessons. **Students who practice regularly during the week ALWAYS progress the most and have the most productive lessons.**

Practicing doesn't just mean singing through your songs over and over until you can't remember your own name. Repetition is important for memorization, but memorization shouldn't be your only goal in performance. Your goal should be to understand what you're singing and feel confident in your ability to sing it!

Invest in your vocal health

Just as an instrumentalist takes specific precautions in keeping their instrument in top shape and health, singers must do the same with our entire bodies. Here are some easy things we singers can do to make sure our instrument stays in tip top shape!

- Drink lots of water - avoid drying beverages like alcoholic, sugary, or caffeinated drinks before singing.
- Get plenty of rest - we are constantly using our voice during the day, so we've got to give it a break
- Avoid using the extremes of your voice too much (loud screaming, harsh whispering, gravelly vocal fry, chipmunk impersonations, etc.)
- If you have a sore throat, whether it be due to sickness or overuse, give yourself a vocal break. **If your voice feels tired or it becomes painful to sing, quit it!** Pushing our voice when it's not feeling great can cause very real damage.

Never be afraid to take chances

Singing lessons should be a safe space to express yourself and explore all the amazing things you can do with your voice. Singing is such a vulnerable art, and it takes a lot of bravery to put yourself out there. I hope that you never feel embarrassed of your instrument or how a song makes you feel - creativity and expression are key to singing, and nothing was ever learned from being perfect at everything right away. I want you to take chances, mispronounce words, have 30 voice cracks, and forget to breathe. That's how we learn and get better!

Get to your lessons prepared, excited to sing, and ready to learn and express yourself!