

find your singing voice



Dear Homeschooling Families,

I am a trained **singer, performer, and voice teacher** looking to expand my voice studio. I offer **private voice lessons** in the convenience and comfort of your home.

As a formerly homeschooled student (grades 1–12), I understand the unique lifestyle and values common to many homeschooling families. I am offering a discounted rate — **\$5 off my regular rates** (see below) — through December 2009 to families who homeschool.

In addition to private singing lessons, I can also offer 1) **group voice classes**, 2) **group classes in musicianship** (music theory, sight-singing, ear training), and 3) **private lessons in musicianship** (see previous, plus basic piano skills).

You can read more about my qualifications below.

Sincerely,

Catherine K. Brown

questions? see reverse side for **FAQs** about voice lessons

about

teaching experience

Vocal instructor: private studio and performing arts camp
Children's choir director: Fulbright scholarship (Germany)

performing experience

Hanna, *A Waltz Dream*: Concert Operetta Theater
Chorus, *Carmen*: Rowan University Opera
Chorus, *Patience*: Savoy Company
Third Boy, *Magic Flute*: Academy of Vocal Arts
Josephine, *H.M.S. Pinafore*: Swanhurst Chorus

rates

\$25 thru 12/09

\$30/30 min.

best for beginners
and younger singers

\$35 thru 12/09

\$40/45 min.

best for singers with
some experience

\$45 thru 12/09

\$50/60 min.

best for experienced singers
in high school or older

A small additional travel charge will apply to families who live over 20 miles from my home in West Chester, PA.

contact

email: singingvoice@ymail.com

phone: 484.802.5836

web: www.findingmysingingvoice.com

education and training

St. Olaf College: B.A. in Music and German
Eastman School of Music: Vocal Workshop

professional memberships

Music Teachers National Association
OPERA America
Singer Network of Chorus America

FAQs about voice lessons

Q: Why take voice lessons? Can't everyone sing?

A: Pretty much anyone who can speak can sing, but most people don't use their voices to full capacity. Voice lessons teach singers how to control their breath and vocal resonance for a fuller, healthier, and more beautiful sound. Lessons also teach general musical skills.

Q: Can't people improve their singing on their own or by using books, CDs, or DVDs?

A: It is possible to improve without a teacher, but it can be dangerous. The voice is a delicate instrument, and misusing it can cause pain and even damage to the vocal cords. A voice teacher can make sure your technique is healthy and can also 1) hear your voice accurately (you can't fully hear your own voice since it resonates inside your head), 2) monitor your singing posture, 3) guide your progress, and 4) introduce you to great music that fits your voice. Even professional singers (including highly trained opera singers) rely on trusted teachers to provide feedback about their voices.

Q: What is the right age to begin voice lessons?

A: Most teachers recommend that girls begin lessons around age 12 and boys after their voices change. Also, it's never too late to start lessons. However, most professional singers begin private study somewhere between age 12 and their early 20s. Students who are considering studying singing in college should begin lessons by age 16 at the very latest.

Q: My child loves to sing but is too young for lessons. How can she (or he) improve now?

A: There are several things your child can do before she's old enough for lessons.

- 1) Join a choir.** A good director will teach children the basics of vocal technique (how to stand, breathe, sustain the voice, etc.). Plus, singing in harmony will develop your child's musical ear.
- 2) Take piano lessons.** Piano lessons will teach your child to read music and to develop musicality and practice skills. When she begins singing lessons, these skills will make her a well-rounded singer and enable her to learn songs quickly on her own.
- 3) Listen to music.** Expose your child to good singing and instrumental music in a wide variety of styles: classical, opera, country, bluegrass, pop, jazz, etc.
- 4) Sing!** Encourage her to sing along to recordings. If you're comfortable with your own voice, sing together as a family. Folk songs, hymns, and patriotic songs are great for young voices.

Q: My son (or daughter) is tone deaf. Will voice lessons help?

A: Most people who think they're tone deaf actually aren't. Those who are truly tone deaf cannot distinguish between high and low pitches. If your son can recognize songs and enjoy music, he's not tone deaf. He probably just has difficulty matching his voice to the notes he hears. (This is often a problem for young men after their voices change.) Guidance and regular practice can fix the problem! Lessons will include pitch matching exercises as well as exercises designed to help him explore the sounds and sensations of his voice.

Q: What musical styles do you teach?

A: My own training is mostly in classical (including sacred) music and opera. However, I also teach musical theater and popular music. Good vocal technique can apply to any singing style! As a teacher, my goal is to assign songs that match a student's interests, abilities, and unique vocal sound.

Q: Do you teach adults?

A: Absolutely! Whether they're experienced or beginners, adults are fun to teach since they're intellectually mature and usually very motivated.