

2021 Policies & Fees

Performance and Learning Opportunities

*Individual and Group Lessons; Master Classes with Guest Instructors; Annual Recital;
Online Access to Member-only "Studio Space"; NATS Competitions and Workshops*

More about the studio and instructor is found at www.annemariekenny.com

*Since March 2020, lessons are successfully conducted online & some in-person lessons on the patio, weather permitting.
We look forward to in-person lesson resuming in 2021 as soon as health officials give the all-clear.*

Goals and Policies

Goals

My goal is to help singers deepen their love for music, enhance their performance artistry, and develop a solid vocal technique that will last a lifetime. Mastery of a healthy vocal technique takes time, discipline, patience, intelligence, and a passion for singing. Likewise, each student's personal and professional goals are important so that the vocal training is tailored in consideration of the student's objectives, level, experience, and abilities.

Expectations

It is my sincere desire that students enjoy and get the most out of their lessons. The techniques and repertoire taught *during* the lessons are only effective with assiduous practice *between* lessons. Students have access to a members-only area of the studio website where many of the vocalizes, technique exercises, and diction exercises are on audio files to use during practice at home. In order to work well with other performing artists and collaborative pianists, it is essential that singers are also *musicians* with the ability to read music, play their melody line accurately, understand rhythm and timing, recognize key signatures, and follow the composers' notations and dynamics.

Therefore, there are two prerequisites for new students:

1. A commitment to practice regularly
2. The ability to read music well (or are taking piano lessons)

A Typical Lesson

The lesson duration is 50 minutes. The first part may consist of vocalizes, breath management, technique exercises, and diction (English, Italian, French, and German). The remainder of the lesson is focused on repertoire, song interpretation, and performance skills. Theory, sight singing and ear training are taught if greater proficiency in these areas is needed.

Cancellation and Changes

Your lesson time is reserved solely for you. Without sufficient advance notice, the instructor cannot offer the time to someone else or be compensated for the lost income.

- If a cancellation or change request is received more than 24-hours prior to the lesson time, the instructor will offer all open availabilities — providing there are any — for a make-up lesson within that same week. The student should respond promptly to the available days/times offered because they cannot be kept open. There is no guarantee that there will be other open spots in any given week. *In the case the instructor needs to change a lesson time, she will ensure that a make-up time will take place.*
- If a cancellation or change request is received less than 24-hours prior to the lesson time, there will be no offers for a make-up lesson, refund or credit. This includes illness and unpredictable weather conditions. No exceptions, please. Keep in mind that messages communicated by text or email are not always received immediately. *Please limit phone calls and text messages between the hours of 8am to 8pm.*
- Lessons via Skype or FaceTime can be arranged when a student cannot physically come to the studio during the scheduled lesson time.
- If several lessons must be missed due to a lengthy conflict, the student can continue on the tuition plan to hold the lesson time and reschedule lessons when possible, or discontinue lessons and be put a waiting list for a new opening when lessons can resume.

Anne-Marie Kenny's Vocal Performance Studio

Termination of Lessons

Should you wish to terminate your voice lessons temporarily or permanently, please give at least one month notice prior to the end of your payment period, so someone else can be moved to your spot. Tuition cannot be refunded after payments are made.

Parking

When dropping off students, make sure they have entered before you drive away. Please only use the lower end of the driveway to park and drop off students. Do not pull forward in the driveway. There is plenty of space at the lower end for two vehicles to park side by side. For group classes, the entire driveway may be used, plus additional parking is available on the East side of the street (UNO fence side).

Videos and Recordings

To assist the student, the instructor often creates voice memo recordings of songs and vocal exercises. If you would like to record or video part of the lesson for your practice purposes, please inform the instructor. Students occasionally ask to create a video at the studio for college entrance purposes or for online auditions, and these can be arranged. Sharing studio videos and recordings on social media is not allowed without written permission from the instructor.

Tuition

Rates are reviewed annually, and there are no changes this year

“À la carte” Lessons

For those not participating in the tuition plan, and who want short term coaching or ad hoc lessons, the fee is \$75 per 50-minute session. No weekly fixed-day is guaranteed. Payment is due when scheduled or at beginning of the lesson.

Tuition Plans: Monthly or Quarterly

The quarterly plan is the most economical. Monthly payments are accepted but not preferred because of the time consumed on late payments and reminders.

<i>Monthly Tuition Plan</i>	<i>Quarterly Tuition Plan</i>
\$275	\$785

Included in All Tuition Plans

Tuition payments are calculated on an *annual* plan of 50 sessions — 43 private lessons, 6 master classes, and 1 recital. For the remaining 2 weeks of the year, the studio will be closed. The 2-week break will be announced well in advance, and may be two weeks in a row or two different weeks. Tuition plan payments are equal installments that may not correlate to the number of sessions in that period. *See next page for master class and recital additional fees.*

Payment Due Date

Tuition is due on or before the 30th of the month *prior* to the tuition period. Checks can be written to *Vocal Performance Studio* or *Anne Marie Kenny*.

Late Payments

A late fee of \$30 must be added for tuition payments received after the due date.

Extra Lessons

Students on a tuition plan sometimes want additional lessons to prepare for a special performance or audition. The extra-lesson fee is prorated from the tuition plan average — \$63 per lesson for those on the quarterly plan, and \$66 per lesson for those on the monthly plan, both of which are lower than the \$75 “à la carte” rate.

Fees

Annual Admin Fee

A \$60 administrative fee is due at beginning of each calendar year. The fee will be prorated for new students who start after March of the calendar year. This fee helps cover costs such as: binders, sheet music library, piano tuning, printer, ink, photocopies, studio upkeep, recording and electronic equipment, music stands, and professional association fees.

Anne-Marie Kenny's Vocal Performance Studio

Annual Recital

Students with at least six months of regular lessons can participate in the annual recital. This is a formal performance held at a rented concert hall. Students perform one or two songs in a professional setting and keepsake recital programs are distributed. An experienced pianist plays for the recital and rehearsals. Family and friends are invited to this wonderful event at no charge. The recital fee varies depending on the number of rehearsals with the accompanist, the cost of the recital hall, printed materials, and reception (if applicable). Exact cost is announced in advance.

Master Classes

\$20 per event is the standard fee, which helps cover the honorariums for the guest instructor and/or accompanist, and for materials and other associated costs. Students are encouraged but not required to attend the master classes, although they are part of the vocal curriculum. For those not able to participate in a master class, no fee is required.

Sheet Music

A few technique and songbook collections will be recommended for the student to purchase. Students can borrow sheet music and songbooks from the studio's extensive lending library. Students sign a library check-out form with the date the music is borrowed and returned. Please return promptly. The website shows a complete list of songbook titles available in the lending library.

Competitions (optional)

Eligible students are encouraged but not required to participate in adjudicated state and regional competitions sponsored by the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) and other professional organizations. Costs depend on the specific competition and its location, and will be announced and agreed upon in advance. We are proud that many VPS Students have been among the finalists and some have been awarded the top prizes in these competitions; however, the primary goal is to work hard, share our talents, enjoy the experience, and receive constructive feedback from the judges.

Accompanist at Lessons (optional)

Students working on advanced repertoire benefit from occasionally having a professional pianist accompany their lessons. Accompanist fees can vary, but are approximately \$30-40 for 40 minutes. The pianist fee is due at the time of the accompanied lesson. To avoid scheduling conflicts, please do not contact VPS accompanists directly.

Other Courses for Individuals and Groups

Group Voice Lessons

Singing lessons for groups can be customized for 3-6 singers who want a shorter length of study, such as weekly lessons for 6-8 weeks. These group lessons have a cost advantage per person, and are effective and energizing for a small cohort with similar goals.

"The Speaking Voice" Workshop

Learn to optimize your message and better engage your audience by enriching the quality, color and sound of your speaking voice. This training is for public speakers and anyone who uses their voice professionally, and is customized for individuals or groups. Please see the website for more information and testimonials from public speakers.

French Lyric Diction

Increase your love for the French language and improve your French pronunciation, grammar, diction, through French songs. Explore the poetry of French lyrics and learn translations word-for-word and phrase-by-phrase. Customized for various interests, this class can also include study of the important French composers, poets, and song literature.

Agreement

*Dear Students and Parents, Please sign this form and send back to me — or you may **write an email message that you have read and accept the 2021 Policies.** Thank you.*

I, _____ have read and accept the VPS 2021 Policies.
(**Print** name of Student or Parent/Guardian)

Signature of Student or Parent/Guardian

Date