

Dear Willson Vocal Academy family,

We are excited to get started on the 2019-2020 school year! The Academy keeps growing and we are able to accommodate more and more of the amazing talent from around this area. We have been searching and continue to search for a building to allow further expansion. In the meantime, we will do our best to schedule all of our current family of students. We are excited that Elizabeth Duska has made a teaching space in her home and will use it for some of her lessons.

There are some changes that will be made to the lesson fees this fall. The new hourly rates will be charged as follows:

Lisa Willson DeNolfo, \$120/hour

Ian DeNolfo, \$90/hour

Chelsea, Elizabeth, Allison and Queade, \$85/hour in the studio or \$100/hour when traveling.

Willson Vocal Academy Policies (2019-2020)

Address:

931 Sulgrave Lane

Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Lisa's iPhone- 610-505-2555

Ian's iPhone- 484-612-8150

Parking

Please park by and above our mailbox up the hill as opposed to down the hill. We have received complaints from our neighbors. You are welcome to pull up into our driveway as long as you are not blocking anyone in. Please be careful backing out of our driveway not to drive over our lights. Thank you.

Teaching Hours

Monday-Saturday- No Sundays

Missed Lessons

All teachers at Willson Vocal Academy must receive 24-hours notice for a missed lesson. If 24 hours notice is not received, we require the full payment for the missed lesson. There will be NO exceptions. It is the students responsibility to verify from the lesson reminder emails that their lesson times are correct.

If a child wakes up in the morning feeling ill and cannot go to school, call us immediately and we still can try to fill the time slot. If the stu-

dent is well enough to go to school, he/ she can attend a voice lesson. It is on these days that you learn how to use vocal function exercises and how to work on your repertoire without singing. This is probably the single most important part of developing a cognitive and healthy vocal technique. If the student starts to feel ill the night before, give us notice. There is always a student that needs a make up lesson or an additional lesson. Please abide by this policy.

If you need to miss a lesson for any reason, and are interested in scheduling a make-up lesson, we will keep that in mind and let you know when we have a cancellation. Since you are reserving a weekly spot in the studio, it is expected that you will make music lessons a priority and schedule other activities around your lesson time.

Payment Policies

Payments for lessons are due at the beginning of each lesson and this method of payment is much preferred. Those families that wish to pay monthly may pay on the 1st day of each month for the month ahead. Invoices for the whole academy will be sent out before the 1st and there is a clickable link included for online payment.

Any Past due balances of 30 days will incur a \$30 late fee.

Accepted methods of payment include checks made out to Willson Vocal Academy, cash, credit card or PayPal. We do not accept Venmo.

Student Expectations

Please come to your lessons eager with questions, concerns or feedback on what you have discovered during your week of practice. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to come to your lessons with positive energy and a great attitude! If you have practiced and are eager to learn, so much more can be accomplished.

Lessons are not meant for learning music or a once a week practice.

They are designed for you to receive help on things you have worked on during the week and to have a professional teacher help you solidify your technique to become strong and efficient. You will not progress if you expect a lesson to be your once a week practice.

Bring your repertoire binder and any other music literature to EVERY lesson. We require a 1 and 1/2 inch black binder that has copies of all your music that you are working on or planning to perform.

All music should be double-sided and hole punched. In addition, you can keep your music in non-glare slip covers. This way the accompanist has a preference as to whether or not they want to use the slip covers when playing your music.

Daily Quality Practice

In order for you to make the most progress, it is essential that you set aside time each day for deliberate, concentrated, quality practice. If you take a 60 min lesson, regular daily practice of at least 20 minutes is required. Occasionally, you may not be able to follow this regiment with a busy schedule, but this routine will move you along faster in the long run than a long marathon practice sessions one or two days a week.

During all practice sessions make sure you are in an environment free of distractions, including all screen devices! Each time you are pulled away from a concentrated practice, the brain takes a long time to refocus. Warm up first and then work on some specific technique exercises learned at your lessons and then work on your repertoire. If you get vocally fatigued, stop immediately and bring this up with your teacher at your next lesson and we will discuss how to practice healthfully. Just because you may get tired or even perhaps have a cold, doesn't mean you can't write out your words or translations, listen to the song and get it memorized.

We highly suggest that you record your lessons. Audio recordings or video should be studied during your practice time. If you need an accompaniment to practice with, tell your teacher at the beginning of the lesson and she/he will play the accompaniment track so you can record it. There is also an amazing app for IOS that is a great source of accompaniment tracks called Appcompanionist. It does require a monthly subscription but has a vast repertoire of both classical and musical theater and offers many advanced controls such as transpositions and tempo adjustments.

To offer our students the best experience we are involved in many organizations such as, the National Association of Teachers of Singers, the Voice Symposium, Musical Coterie of Wayne, Bryn Mawr Day, Bryn Mawr Twilight Concert Series and various other community organizations which provide us with outreach opportunities. These organizations trust us and enjoy our high standard of singers. The more you perform, the more you learn, not only about singing but about the people in your community. Sharing your talents is the most important part of being a musician.

Communication

The studio communicates mainly through e-mail and text. You will

receive a 24-hour notification emails of your upcoming lessons. If you prefer, we can also send a text notification as well. It is recommended that your email be checked on a daily basis for updates. We kindly ask that you not text or call Ian and Lisa after 9:30 pm or before 8:30 am. Chelsea, Queade, Elizabeth and Allison can notify their students of their preferred hours of communication.

Competitions

We strongly encourage our middle school, high school and college students to participate in NATS Student Auditions at Temple University. This year the competition is Saturday, October 26th. This competition is for grades middle school through adults. You can enter into either Classical or Musical Theater divisions or both.

In the beginning of February, there will also be the Classical Singer Competition at Temple University. This competition has a Musical Theater division as well.

In the spring, there is a local competition for middle school and high school students call the Tri-County Youth Festival. This is for classical singers ONLY.

We also would like to encourage the upperclassmen to prepare a joint senior recital or solo recital.

Visitors at Lessons

We would respectfully request that there be no visitors at lessons. More often than not, the student is distracted when friends, parents or relatives are in the studio during a lesson. Experience has shown that the student feels constrained and progress is slowed. We will allow parents to come in for the last 10 minutes if they would like to hear what their child worked on during the course of the hour.

Tribute Series/Holiday Extravaganza/Miscast Cabaret/Gazebo Spring Recitals

In 2017 we began our Tribute Series and it was a tremendous success. These concerts our approximately a little over an hour in length and singers are selected by all 6 teachers. Even if you are not selected for a particular concert, we encourage everyone to attend. These concert gems are packed with information and fun trivial facts as well as wonderful singing! Each singer is required to do some research on their song and the composer that we are celebrating. They share with the audience some interesting facts about their song and can

even dress up in an appropriate costumes if they so choose.
Dates TBA

There will be a Mock Audition Workshop in October for those that
are getting ready for College Auditions!
The date will be Sunday, October 13, 11am-3pm at our home.

We are looking forward to meeting all of our new families!

Musically yours,

Lisa, Ian, Chelsea, Elizabeth, Queade and Allison