

# **M**Manhattan School of Music **VOCAL COACHING**

Each classical voice major is entitled to vocal coaching in every semester for which s/he is enrolled for full time (twelve credit hours or more) study or for at least full-time voice lessons if enrolled for fewer than twelve credit hours. For those who are presenting a graduation jury and recital in a particular semester, these students are entitled to specialized coaching for the duo team of singer and pianist.

Therefore, there are two general types of coaching available to each classical voice major:

1. **Regular Vocal Coaching**
2. **Graduation Recital Coaching\***

\***Graduation Recital Coaching**, only in the semester of the graduation recital, is offered under three (3) different options as explained below.

The vocal coaching program is coordinated by the chairman of the Collaborative Piano Department, **John Forconi** ([johnforconi@gmail.com](mailto:johnforconi@gmail.com)).

The following are the descriptions of each type of coaching together with procedures and responsibilities:

## **REGULAR VOCAL COACHING**

### **Program Description**

All classical voice majors who are **not** presenting a graduation recital will receive **ten** (10) sessions of private coaching each semester with a voice department staff coach. There is a list of these coaches on the coaching request form you must access on this website. The coaches on the list are comprised of current Collaborative Piano majors, graduates of the Collaborative Piano program, and coaches from outside the school. There are several pages of bios for these coaches which you can also access on this website.

All first-year undergraduate students (**freshman**) will receive **ten** one-half (1/2) hour coaching sessions per semester unless you are a freshman transfer student. All others, including freshman transfer students, will receive ten one (1) hour coaching sessions per semester. On the **Regular Vocal Coaching Request Form** you will be asked to choose four (4) coaches in order of your preference. After you have **emailed** your responses to me, you will be assigned to one of the staff coaches you choose. We will try to honor your first choice if possible. This will be your coach for this semester. The coach will contact you to set up a suitable schedule to ensure that **ten** (10) sessions will be completed in the semester.

You will be asked to email your responses to this **Regular Vocal Coaching Request Form** each semester you are enrolled except in the semester you intend to present your graduation jury and recital.

**PLEASE NOTE: Coaching cannot begin before the request form responses have been received by the chair of the Collaborative Piano department.**

## Communication

We will be checking with your coach and your major teacher throughout the semester regarding your progress and your participation in the program. If you have any questions or difficulties, please contact the Chairman of the Collaborative Piano Department, **John Forconi** ([johnforconi@gmail.com](mailto:johnforconi@gmail.com)), immediately.

## Responsibilities

You will be expected to arrive at each coaching session on time and ready to work. Therefore, you should be warmed-up and ready to sing. These sessions are meant to enhance your vocal progress; it is important that you use the time wisely. These sessions are not for note-pounding. You should prepare as well as possible in terms of notes and rhythms. Last minute cancellations are unprofessional and cannot be accepted. It is your responsibility to attend each scheduled session. If you are unable to attend a particular session, please give your coach at least 24-hour notice – otherwise you will lose that session. Frequent cancellations or absences will be reported by your coach. **Please note that all ten coaching sessions must be completed before the official end of each semester. You cannot “make up” missed sessions in the next semester.**

## Junior Year Students

Junior year students are required to present a ‘half’ recital (30 minutes of music) in December of their junior year. The request for a coach is the same as above. **The coach will also serve as the pianist for the recital.** Make sure you inform your coach of the recital date and time as soon as you have your first coaching session. The school will pay the coach separately for playing the recital. **Make sure your regular coach is available to play for your Junior Recital before you start coaching. If you have to change the date of this recital, check with your coach about the new date as well. If you decide to have a pianist other than your regular coach play for this recital, you will be responsible for paying this other pianist.**

## GRADUATION RECITAL COACHING (Three Options)

### Program Description

All classical voice majors who are presenting a graduation jury and recital in a particular semester can choose **one** from the following three options:

- A. **Eight** one-hour sessions of **Recital Coaching** with a **recital coach**
- B. **Five** one-hour sessions of **Recital Coaching** with a **recital coach** & **Five** one-hour sessions of **Regular Coaching** with a **regular coach**
- C. **Ten** one-hour sessions of **Regular Coaching** with a **regular coach**.

This **Recital Coaching** is intended for you and your pianist. Make sure that the pianist you choose is available to attend each of the coaching sessions with you. If you choose a pianist who is currently in the Collaborative Piano program or a graduate of the program, the school pays her/him an honorarium of \$ 75.00.

On the **Graduation Recital Coaching Request Form** you will be asked to choose one of the three options described above. If you choose option A or B, you will be asked to choose four (4) **recital coaches** in order of your preference. There is a list of all the recital coaches on this form. These coaches have faculty status; their bios can be found in the school catalogue or on the school website. If you choose option B or C, you will be asked to choose four (4) **regular coaches** from the list found on the **Regular Vocal Coaching Request Form**. We will try to honor your first choice of coach in each case if possible.

You will receive an email from the chair of the Collaborative Piano department informing you of your recital coach.

**PLEASE NOTE: Coaching cannot begin before the request form has been returned to the chair of the collaborative piano department. You can leave this completed form outside my studio door – room 214.**

## **Communication**

After you have been informed of your recital coach, you must contact the coach and set up a schedule for both you and your pianist to attend the coaching sessions. If you have any questions or difficulties, please contact the Chairman of the Collaborative Piano Department, John Forconi ([johnforconi@gmail.com](mailto:johnforconi@gmail.com)), immediately.

## **Responsibilities**

You will be expected to arrive at each coaching session on time and ready to work. Therefore, you should be warmed-up and ready to sing. These sessions are meant to prepare you and your pianist for the jury and recital; it is important that you use the time wisely. Last minute cancellations are unprofessional and cannot be accepted. It is your responsibility to attend each scheduled session. If you are unable to attend a particular session, please give your coach at least 24-hour notice – otherwise you will lose that session. Frequent cancellations or absences will be reported by the coach.

## **Time Frame**

You should begin the coaching sessions a minimum of six to eight weeks before your recital/jury date. Therefore, you need to complete and return the request form at the **beginning** of the semester in which you intend to present the jury and recital. Last-minute requests will not be honored since no one will coach you and your pianist without sufficient time to complete the coaching sessions in a timely fashion.