

Dramatic Interpretation of Classical Vocal Literature with Vegas City Opera

Advanced Grades 6 – 8
Grades 9 - 12

This lesson covers stage presence, acting techniques, text translation and interpretation, and creating a character to help young singers create more engaging and fulfilling performances of their solo repertoire.

Materials: Piano, keyboard, or piano app (several free options available), mirror (optional), Video/Audio Recording device (phone or Chromebook is perfect!)

The Lesson:

1. What are the benefits of studying acting techniques for young singers?
2. Vocabulary used in this lesson and what we mean
 - a. Stage Presence
 - b. Acting Techniques
 - c. Emotional Connection
 - d. Text Translation and Specificity
 - e. Singer engagement
 - f. Audience Engagement
3. Acting warmups for singers
4. Text Techniques
 - a. Translation from a foreign language
 - b. Making poetic texts make sense
5. Developing your character
6. Physical Gestures and Facial Expressions
7. Putting it all together in the practice room
8. Taking your work and putting it onstage!

Connection to the Nevada Academic Content Standards for the Fine Arts

- Performing: Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation and presentation.
- Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external content.

MU:Pr6.8.1 to help singers perform the music with technical accuracy, stylistic expression, and culturally authentic practices in music to convey the creator's intent.

MU:Pr5.8.1 to assist singers in identifying and applying personally developed criteria (such as demonstrating correct interpretation of notation, technical skill of performer, originality, emotional impact, variety, and interest) to rehearse, refine and determine when the music is ready to perform.

MU:Pr4.8.5 to assist singers to identify how cultural and historical context inform performances and result in different musical effects.

Connection to Literacy: Vegas City Opera's virtual lesson on vocal technique connects to literacy by having students listen to the content provided and then connect the provided content to their individual repertoire. As singers progress in their vocal journeys, they will display comprehension of the concepts leading to more engaging, dynamic performances. Students will form ideas about how to interpret their assigned repertoire, and then express their ideas through the performance. Additionally, students will learn vocabulary associated with dramatic interpretation, including but not limited to characterization, libretto, plot, subtext, and fachs.

About the Artists

Emily Kurcan Stephenson

Vegas City Opera Director of Outreach and Education and soprano Emily Kurcan Stephenson is thrilled to be tasked with spreading opera and music education across the Vegas Valley. She currently is the administrator for Vegas City Opera's Young Artist program and has developed opera education programs for the City of Henderson. She also has run Vegas City Opera's past three years of Summer Opera Academies. Ms. Stephenson performs regularly around the Las Vegas valley with Opera on Tap Las Vegas and Vegas City Opera. Ms. Stephenson has over 15 years of teaching private and group voice lessons. She also works regularly as a history and theory tutor. She holds a Masters of Music in Vocal Performance and a Master of Arts in Musicology from The University of Denver's Lamont School of Music.

Skip Galla Katipunan

Skip Galla Katipunan hails originally from western Pennsylvania and is living his best life pouring his art heart into Vegas City Opera. He is a countertenor & baritone who believes that performance is an essential expression of the human experience. Everyone deserves the opportunity for cultural growth and artistic communion! He studied voice at the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, CT before embarking on his long, strange journey. His visions have unfolded on and off myriad stages across the country and abroad in Germany and China, eventually landing him in Las Vegas, where he and the cunning Ginger Land-van Buuren brought Vegas City Opera to life. He has many years of stage experience, none nearly as satisfying as here in Las Vegas. During his days he challenges his mind working as a Nurse in Infection Prevention at UMC Hospital. His dedication lies in his work, his family, and bringing opera to his community in ways that will surprise them, engage them, and ultimately enrich their lives.

Contact: <https://vegascityopera.org/>

artists in schools +
communities

Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster

The Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster is an online resource for schools, organizations and communities seeking to engage teaching artists. Roster artists are experienced in collaborating with schools and communities to conduct arts learning and cultural experiences in, through and about the arts.

Explore the roster at <https://www.nvartscouncil.org/rosters/teaching-artists/>