

Introduction to Vocal Technique with Vegas City Opera **Advanced Grades 6 – 8 Grades 9 - 12**

This lesson covers proper posture, breath support, placement of sound, diction, projection, and vocal health, with the goal of helping young singers improve their at home vocal practice and overall technique.

Materials: Piano, keyboard, or piano app (several free options available), mirror (optional)

The Lesson:

1. What is Vocal Technique and why is it important?
2. Anatomy and how it relates to the voice
 - a. Larynx (voice box)
 - b. Face/mouth
 - c. Breathing apparatus
 - d. Support
3. Proper posture for singing
 - a. Connection between voice and body
 - b. Getting the body ready to sing!
4. Breathing exercises for singers
5. Vocal Warmups
 - a. Singing exercises
 - b. Diction exercise
 - c. Projection
6. Vocal Health

Connection to the Nevada Academic Content Standards for the Fine Arts

- Performing: Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation and presentation.

MU:Pr5.8.1 to assist students 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:Pr5.7.1 to assist students in identifying and applying collaboratively developed criteria (such as demonstrating correct interpretation of notation, technical skill of performer, originality, emotional impact, and interest) to rehearse, refine, and determine when the music is ready to perform.

MU:Pr4.7.1 for students to sing and play instruments to age-appropriate literature.

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 technique. The lesson will also introduce singers to vocabulary associated with the study of solo singing, including but not limited to diaphragm, resonance, and larynx. As singers progress in their vocal journeys, they will display comprehension of the concepts leading to better performance outcomes.

[About the Artist](#)

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.

Rebecca Morris

Rebecca Morris has performed operatic roles all over the country and the world. She is a graduate of Northern Arizona University, and has received certificates from the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, The Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute and The Opera Academy of California in San Francisco, CA, the Crittenden Opera Theater Institute in Washington DC, and the Flagstaff in Fidenza program in Fidenza, Italy. She has 20 years of experience teaching and training young singers. She made her Opera Directing Debut with Vegas City Opera's L'Etoile in the Spring of 2017, where she took the whole production into outer space! She brings a bounty of enthusiasm and a depth of experience to the Vegas City Opera Education Programs and is excited for the opportunity to help expand this great art form in the Las Vegas Valley.

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



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/>