

## Learning A Song with Vegas City Opera

Advanced Grades 6 – 8  
Grades 9 - 12

*This lesson teaches young singers strategies to learning new solo repertoire. Vegas City Opera will introduce the different learning styles (spatial, auditory, linguistic, kinesthetic) to help singers identify their learning style. Singers will then be presented with a step-by-step guide, tailored to the different types of learning styles, on where to start when they are assigned a new song. Singers will also be given strategies on how to effectively memorize their pieces. Additionally, the lesson will instruct singers on how to identify appropriate vocal literature for their individual voice.*

**Materials:** Solo song (Vegas City Opera can suggest a piece if singers need)  
piano, keyboard, or piano app (several free options available), pencil, pen, highlighter, notecards or paper

### The Lesson:

1. Intro to learning styles
  - a. Visual/Spatial
  - b. Auditory
  - c. Linguistic
  - d. Kinesthetic
2. How do I know which learning style I am?
  - a. Many of us are a mix of styles!
  - b. Online quizzes
  - c. Think about how you study and what you find most effective, the skills that help you study traditional subjects like math and science will also help you learn your music
3. Now that I know my learning style, how can I use it?
  - a. Approaches to learning and memorizing melody and text for each learning style
  - b. Some things to consider when listening to recordings
4. Any tips to help me figure out my vocal range?
5. New Music? From where?
  - a. Can be assigned by private teacher or choir teacher
  - b. Can get suggestions from local opera companies and choirs
  - c. You can also pick new music for yourself!
6. Picking new repertoire
  - a. Where to look for new pieces?
  - b. Is the piece in my voice range?
  - c. Your voice teacher, if you have one, should have final say!
  - d. Is the character appropriate for me
  - e. Variety in your repertoire is important
  - f. Other considerations
7. Walking through one singer's process of memorizing a piece

### 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:Pr5.8.1-identify and apply 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:Pr4.8.2- apply personally developed criteria for selecting music of contrasting styles for a program with a specific purpose and/or context, and explain expressive qualities, technical challenges, and reasons for choices.

MU:Cr3.7.1- Evaluate their own work, applying selected criteria such as appropriate application of elements of music including style, form, and use of sound sources.

**Connection to Literacy:** Vegas City Opera’s virtual lesson on learning vocal repertoire and memorization techniques addresses literacy by having students listen to the content and then connect the provided content to their process in learning assigned vocal repertoire. Students will also make connections between their individual voices and appropriate repertoire for their voice, as well as connections between their learning style and most efficient practices to learn new music. Students will demonstrate comprehension of the lesson by applying the content to their individual vocal practice. Additionally, students will learn vocabulary associated with learning styles and memorization, including but not limited to spatial, auditory, linguistic, kinesthetic, memory storage, soprano, mezzo-soprano, and tenor.

**Resources:** Additional literature about learning styles  
<http://www.educationplanner.org/students/self-assessments/learning-styles-quiz.shtml>  
<https://www.time4learning.com/learning-styles/>  
Aria-Database.com  
Lieder.net  
BroadwayWorld.com

### **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.

#### **Ginger Land-van Buuren**

Vegas City Opera Executive Director Ginger Land-van Buuren moved to Las Vegas from New York City. Ginger was a Portland Opera Resident Artist and received her B.A. in Music, at Portland State University and her Opera Performance Certificate from Bel Canto Northwest. In her professional operatic career

Ginger performed with Palm Beach Opera, Dicapo Opera Theater, Pacific Opera, Opera In The Heights, Natchez Opera Festival, Portland Opera, Opera Astoria and the National Lyric Opera, singing the roles of Queen of the Night, Lucia di Lammermoor, Donna Anna, Madame Goldentrill, Constanza, Gilda, Cunegonda, Miss Wordsworth, Violetta, Musetta, Lady with a Hand Mirror, and Nella among others. She performs in concert across the country with her TechnOpera band OperaRisque'. Ginger is a member of Actor's Equity Association and the Screen Actors Guild. After relocating to Las Vegas, Ginger co-founded Sin City Opera , now Vegas City Opera with Skip Galla Katipunan, and continues to perform with the company.

**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/>