



Makeda Hampton, Soprano

Education:

- DMA, Vocal Performance – University of Kentucky – 2016-present
- MM, Vocal Performance & Pedagogy - Westminster Choir College - 2009
- BM, Vocal Performance & Pedagogy - Oakwood University – 2007

Additional Training

- Know Your Voice Vocology Course, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, 2018
- American Institute of Musical Studies, Graz, Austria, Summer - 2005, 2006

Professional Affiliations:

- Member, National Association of Teachers of Singing
- Voice Scholar, Marian Anderson Historical Society, Philadelphia PA
- American Spiritual Ensemble

Teaching Experience:

- **Teaching Assistant in Voice**
 - University of Kentucky School of Music, 2016-present
- **Assistant Professor of Voice, Diction, and Opera**
 - Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL – 2010-2016
- **Private Voice Teacher**
 - Currently located in Lexington, KY – 2008-present

Teaching Focus & Expertise:

- Healthy vocal development & production for all styles of singing
- Audition preparation
- Diagnosis and correction of common vocal issues
- Musical Styles –
 - Classical: Opera, Oratorio, Art Song
 - Music Theater: Broadway Musicals, Movie Musicals (select repertoire)
 - Standard American repertoire: Spirituals, Great American Songbook, Folk Songs

Performing Experience:

- University of KY Black Box Opera, *Blanche, A Streetcar Named Desire* (Previn), April 2019
- University of KY Opera Theater, *Violetta* (cover) *La Traviata* (Verdi), 2017
- West Windsor Symphony, Princeton, NJ – 2008; 2015
- New Jersey State Opera, Newark, NJ - 2010
- Huntsville Youth Orchestra, Huntsville, AL - 2009
- Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival, Waimea Hawai'i, 2009
- American Institute of Musical Studies, Graz, Austria, 2006; 2005



Studio FAQs

Q: What is the goal of voice lessons?

A: The primary goal of lessons is to develop technique for a healthy, long-lasting instrument. We will integrate the technique into songs that are age and level appropriate, and fun to sing. I will help you prepare for singing auditions and performances. However, if there are vocal technique issues (such as strain, hoarseness, partial voice loss) or medical issues (allergies, upper respiratory infections, laryngitis, etc) at the time of the lesson, vocal health issues should be given proper attention first.

Q: What are your criteria for providing lessons?

A: The student should be able to sing in tune, want to sing and be willing to practice at home.

Q: Are there times when you do not teach?

A: I do not teach lessons during the summer months of June-August, unless special arrangements are made. My typical teaching season runs from September through May. I will also provide a schedule of holidays and special events.

Q: What are your thoughts about “belting” and do you teach it?

A: There are certainly healthy ways to produce a belt sound. Although many children and teens are natural belters, any young person who frequently sings belt-style music - whether Musical Theatre, Gospel, Pop or R&B - should be trained by a professional who has appropriate training and experience in teaching.

Vocal injury in singers occurs most frequently in those who do not have proper training; even if the voice sounds good, that is not an indication of proper technique. Belting is high-stress singing and should be taught by a well-trained professional, as opposed to imitating recordings and other singers.

Q: Are there any reasons for dismissing a student from the studio?

A: Yes, negative behavior and unwillingness to cooperate are the primary reasons for dismissal.

Q: What music books should I purchase?

A: Music books are assigned on an individual basis after the first few lessons.

Q: What should I prepare for the audition? (if applicable)

A: Students that have taken singing lessons before should prepare to sing a song that was previously assigned. Beginning students should prepare a commonly sung song, such as a hymn, folk song, or patriotic song. All students should expect to sing a few vocal scales and exercises.

Q: Do you accept online auditions? (if applicable)

A: Yes. If a scheduling conflict does not permit a live audition, you may send an audio or video clip in the following formats, mp3, mp4, aac or a YouTube video link. An in-person meeting will still be necessary prior to acceptance.