

N oteworthy N ews e d

Valerie Williams — Voice Studio

Recital Season!

It's that time of the year again! Between end of the year concerts, parties and shopping, it can be hard to see past the end of this busy month. With that in mind, I just wanted to give you a "heads up" on what's around the corner for my voice studio.

I have scheduled my annual recital for **Sunday, January 30 at 3:00 p.m.** with a dress rehearsal on Friday evening, January 28th. It will be held at **St. Paul's Episcopal Church** which is in East Bremerton by Harrison Hospital. The accompanist will be **Janice Parker Peterson**, current president of the Kitsap Music Teachers Association. The fee for those participating will be \$15 to cover Janice's fee and other

recital expenses.

My goal for this recital is two fold: I would like to provide an opportunity for my students to perform in a supportive environment. Secondly, I would like give those students who are taking part in the Kitsap Music Teacher Vocal Adjudications, Solo & Ensemble, and/or NATS a chance to try out their songs before being adjudicated.

So please think about which songs you would like to sing. If you like, you may contact Janice Parker Peterson at 360-697-3277 to schedule additional rehearsals. Otherwise, you can wait until the dress rehearsal in February. Janice is also available to accompany for competitions.

Speaking of competitions and adjudications, this year there are several options for interested students. I have given details about the three opportunities in the sidebar. I really encourage students to take advantage of these adjudications and competitions. Not only do students receive valuable feedback but the process of preparing, memorizing and performing as a vocal soloist offers many rewards. Please consider taking advantage of these wonderful opportunities!



Featured article from www.vocalsplendor.com

About Voice Lessons

I have heard many people over the years of teaching voice lessons, question whether or not they would be able to learn to sing. There are so many myths about singing. Many people believe that only "special" people can sing, you have to be "born" with it, it is "too

late", etc, etc. Anyone can learn to sing! In my ten years of teaching voice, I have seen extremely talented people go nowhere and moderately talented people practice, study and build a voice and a career for themselves.

If you are willing to face your fears, see yourself clearly and commit to regular lessons with a teacher, you can sing. That does not mean that you can sing anything, however.

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Adjudications & Competitions

Kitsap Music Teachers Vocal Adjudications

When: Sunday, February 6, 2005

Where: Suquamish United Church of Christ

Requirements: Must take lessons from a KMTA member.

Procedure: Non competitive. Singers sing two or more songs for the adjudicator and receives written and verbal feedback in a master class format.

Deadlines & Fees: January deadline TBA. Fees range from \$10.00 to \$22.00 depending on student level.

Solo & Ensemble

When: Saturday, February 26th

Where: Olympic College

Requirements: For 7-12 grade students taking choir in public schools.

Procedure: Students sing a classical or folk song for a judge.

Judges give written comments as well as verbal feedback in a master class setting. Student receive a rating of:

I—Superior

II Excellent

III Good

IV Fair

V. Poor (no one ever gets this)

More ->>



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Good News!

Andrew Pohl and **Kyle Spitzer** placed third place in the Male Duet division at the state level Solo and Ensemble Contest last spring. **Andrew** also took First place in High School Male I at NATS.

Kyle Spitzer, Monica Harris and **Krystle Spoon** were selected for All-State Choir.

Kristin Dullum recently performed the role of Jody in CKJH' s production of LEADER OF THE PACK.

Mitchell Trump made his comic debut with BHS as Lord Fancort Babberly in CHARLEY' S AUNT.

Krystle Spoon performed in KSS' s production as Lenore in THE HOUSE OF USHER. She will be seen next year as a Villager and Russian dancer in Cstock' s FIDDLER ON THE ROOF.

Anne Marie Lillet performed as a soldier in Dance Art Theater' s production of NUTCRACKER.

Lou Stack made his debut with Kitsap Opera in the chorus of LA TRAVIATA.

Adjudications & Competitions continued

Solo & Ensemble continued

The top students at the high school level who receive a I, go on to the State level.

NATS-National Association of Teachers of Singing

When: Friday & Saturday, March 18th & 19th

Where: Shoreline Community College

Requirements: Must take voice lessons with a NATS member and be in 9th grade or above.

Procedure: Singers sing three or four songs depending on level and receive written comments from three judges. Judges choose 1st and 2nd place plus Honorable Mentions in each division.

Deadline: Paperwork must be submitted by mid February. \$10 application fee.

NOTE: All contest fees do not include an accompanist. The accompanist will need to be paid separately.

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Not every voice is suited for all kinds of music. Part of studying voice is learning about your unique instrument and what it is ideally suited for.

Sometimes people will ask if they can learn to sing without a teacher. Well...yes and no. So much of voice lessons is "unlearning" all the tense habits we have picked up over the years. This can be extremely difficult to determine by yourself. This is why even advanced singers continue to see a teacher. It is so helpful to have another trained pair of eyes and ears. A teacher will simply help you reach your goals more quickly and efficiently. Those of you in the pop music genre, don' t be fooled! The music business is filled with teachers and coaches. Many of the major recording artists have or still do study with a teacher. This is not well publicized by the industry. If you are interested in singing a particular style of music, search out a teacher who specializes in or at least understands that particular style.

Because we use our voices everyday, voice lessons are more akin to physical therapy, dance or other athletic endeavors than instrumental music study. Singing is mostly awareness and coordination. It is also similar to learning to ride a bike or drive a clutch car. At first it takes an incredible amount of concentration but as you gain "muscle memory" eventually you go on "auto pilot" and you can then focus on other things. This is our goal and experience with voice training as well. Eventually we progress to the point where we don' t have to think about our technique and we can focus on our artistic self expression and the joy of singing.