



Shaw Studio Fall / Winter Semester, 2011-2012.

Welcome back to all of the Shaw Studio students. The 2011 - 2012 year is going to be a busy year. Coming up are three recitals, competitions, and exams.

The recitals this year will include a Winter Season recital - set for December 9th, a Classic Rock Performance in mid May, and the End of Year Recital towards the end of June.

Kiwanis this year had many excellent performances by all of the participants. Congratulations to all of the performers.

This past year saw several students move on to performing in theater productions, both here and abroad. The level of dedication to their chosen art is rewarding to see.

To all of my students, thank you for making the past year a fun, rewarding time. Each and everyone of you are a shining light, let that light shine on everyone you meet this year.

Neil Shaw

What's new this year

This year marks the addition of the Shaw Studio website, www.shawstudio.ca . This site contains scheduling information, calendars, and information on upcoming events, all of which will be available to anyone logging onto the site. In addition the site will also be hosting all music materials for the students, with scores that are being studied available in PDF files, and audio files in MP3 format. Each student will also be given a Shaw Studio email address. (parents or guardians will also have access to the email accounts for students under 18).

For those students who will be performing in Kiwanis's Musical Theatre events in February / March of 2012 the following items should be noted:

- a) Space for practicing has been booked at the Acadia Recreational Complex (240-90 Ave. SE) starting in October.
- b) Shaw Studio in partnership with Dance4Energy has arranged for the month of October to teach Music and Motion classes to enhance the competitors expressive abilities. These classes are recommended for all of the Musical Theatre students.
- c) Starting in November the Musical Theatre students will start staging and blocking their numbers with (where applicable) their partners. Practices will continue until the end of January. There will also be a final dress rehearsal early in February.
- d) The space at the Acadia Recreational Complex has been booked for each Wednesday of the week starting in October. The time booked is for one hour and will be divided between the various students as necessary. There is a small fee for each student to cover the space and the instructor from Dance4Energy.

What is Shaw Studio

Shaw Studio is a music education studio with a focus on voice training. Shaw Studio has lessons available to students either in their own home or at the studio located in S.W. Calgary.

The vocal studies derive from Bel Canto (literally 'Beautiful Voice) which is a system designed to develop the beauty in everyones voice and to enable them to achieve what they desire as a singer.

RCM (Royal Conservatory of Music) syllabus is followed for those students who would like to take exams or are considering a career in the Arts.

In the Studio

Shaw Studio also provides a facilities for professional recording. If you would like to record an album of songs for your family, (Christmas gifts?) or you have a band that you participate in, then let me know and arrangements will be made. High quality voice demos can also be made if you are planning on entering an Arts College or University and you need to submit a voice sample.

A note to the students

Learning the art of singing is a lifetime pursuit. In the beginning stages new students quite often want to know how long it will be before they can sing. There is no quantifiable answer, but I can offer this quote, "...it will take you about five years to become a good singer, but you'll be singing quite well inside of six months..." (Blaine Chapman, 1925-2005)

Studying the Art of Singing

As a student, either new to vocal studies or continuing your education, you have a responsibility to yourself for achieving your very best.

Lessons are usually a half hour to an hour in length, once per week. The lessons focus on two main areas, technique and repertoire. To get the most out of the lessons you will need to be practicing at least three times per week, and spending the the same length of time for each practice as your lesson is. (More is great!)

Practicing should always include a warmup, followed by technical exercises and finally any repertoire that is currently being studied.

It is recommended that you record your lessons for playback during practice times. This will ensure that material discussed and worked on during the lesson will be followed up on during the week.

It is not a requirement that you have a keyboard (piano or other) in your house. Repertoire that is being studied will be available from the Shaw Studio website (www.shawstudio.ca) as PDFs and MP3s. Printed scores and CDs are also available if needed.

If there is material that you would like to try then please let the studio instructor know what it is, and if possible provide the sheet music.

Depending on level and rate of advancement you may be required to purchase song books or other materials. A listing of locations that provide sheet music is provided at the end of this letter.

Competitions, Exams, and Recitals.

Singing is a performance art, we encourage everyone to participate in the recitals. Shaw Studio hosts two to three recitals per year which will give new and seasoned students a comfortable, non-competitive event in which to perform for friends and family. The recitals take place in late November / early December, and in May / June. Dates and locations depend on availability. Some events may require either a donation or a small fee to offset the use of the facilities.

Calgary has a number of music competitions throughout the year. The largest of which is the Kiwanis Music Festival which usually starts late February and goes for about four weeks.

Exams take place three times per year, January, June, and August. These exams are formal and are adjudicated by accredited examiners through the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Students that are attending either a competition or taking exams will be required to have an accompanist for the event(s). Shaw Studio works closely with several very accomplished pianists in the Calgary area and will arrange times to work with them in preparation for the event. The student is responsible for the fees charged by the accompanist.

For both exams and competitions an original copy of the music is required.

Shaw Studio Schedule.

The calendar year, beginning in September and ending in June, closely follows the Public School Year calendar. Each student will have 38 lessons over the year. Please see the brochure for calendar details.

Music Resources.

Rideau Music, Specialists in Sheet Music.

Downtown, 110 - 11th Ave. S.W. (403) 269-6062.

Online.

www.musicnotes.com (excellent resource for sheet music, credit card)

www.greatscores.com (more sheet music, Paypal only)