

January 6/98

Elisabeth Pomès
Royal Conservatory of Music

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to put into words my thoughts and feelings about your teaching. I have used a point format to illustrate your talents as a truly incredible teacher:

- you have an amazing ability to quickly ascertain how each and every student learns and to recognize each student as a unique individual (this may sound rather cliché but it is, in my opinion, extremely important and at the heart of your uniqueness as a teacher)
- you then take this knowledge and customize each lesson, for example:
 - you know how to customize vocal exercises to:
 - correct a particular or general problem
 - strengthen things that are right
 - develop the voice, breathing, and focus
- pace well, know when to push and more importantly, how to push
- never humiliate your students
- have the utmost respect for each student
- listen carefully to your students
- have a great talent for being able to translate for the student how the body is working to produce sound, and can explain how if it is not working properly. Because of your immense knowledge of anatomy you are able to suggest ways to correct things that are wrong and bring understanding to the student in an easy and informative way
- you always create a positive atmosphere for your classes, and make each student feel special, and no matter how tired you may be you've never given anything less than 110%.
- you go out of your way to search for repertoire that will not only stretch and develop the student's skills but find repertoire that we will enjoy singing and studying
- you provide opportunities for your students to perform in recital/concert settings
- you coach for performance and exam nerves
- you have developed pertinent and important workshops for all aspects of your students' learning
- provide/plan/create masterclasses for the more advanced students
- I like the way that you look at the sub-text of lyrics, helping the student to understand what it is that we are singing about (yes, even when it's in English!)
- teach musicianship
- you have the compassion and courage to ask "where is your soul?"

Elisabeth, I suspect that anyone who has not experienced for themselves your unique teaching ability will not be able to fully appreciate your greatness just by reading this testimonial. I can only add that the hour I spent each week with you was like an oasis in the desert; it nourished my soul, it developed my voice, my singing, my love of music; it gave, and continues to give, my inner voice an avenue of expression. I hope that I will be able to return to your studio again in the near future.

Sincerely,
Joanne Kenyon
Oakville, Ontario