

February 17, 1999

57 Strath Ave.
Etobicoke, ON
M8X1R4

Ms. Elisabeth Pomes
306 South Kingsway, Apt # 3
Toronto, ON
M6S 3T9

Dear Elisabeth,

As you know, I have always enjoyed all forms of music, particularly vocal, and have sung in both sacred and secular choirs from an early age. In more recent years while teaching elementary students vocal music, I was finding that my voice was becoming increasingly difficult to produce. My breathing, support, range, and sound quality were diminishing (as was my confidence). At this point I saw the need for some vocal lessons. Your name was actually given to me by one of the more self-assured singers in my grade 5/6 choir. She had been having problems with pitch and tone, but these had obviously been overcome.

From my first lesson I found your patience and sensitivity exceptional. Initially, the half-hour time period was appropriate. As the actual process of singing became less difficult, I was happy to move on to the hourly lessons. After extending my range, you showed me that I was indeed an alto, and should be proud of my well rounded lower tones. Simultaneously, you were extending my upper range, with such enjoyable exercises as the Vaccai for flexibility which I continue to use even now. In addition, I find your own progressive voice expertise tape very useful, and I always use this in my practice sessions at home, and the mirror is always close at hand for viewing mouth positioning.

Each lesson provides a logical framework beginning with the breathing exercises, flexibility warm-ups, followed by interpretation of one or two pieces. I have really enjoyed the variety of repertoire to which you have introduced me.

I would also like to thank you for introducing me to the Yoga exercise sessions. Your expertise has been invaluable in showing the importance of correct breathing as a basis for all fine singing. I also appreciated your suggestion to attend some Feldenkrais sessions (both group and individual). These have certainly assisted me in a more relaxed approach to breathing.

The experience of two recitals in December and June within the wonderful acoustics of Humbercrest United Church are always most enjoyable. The idea of performing for a "non-threatening" audience, ie. Fellow students, friends etc., is a very positive one. Even the experience of taking a Grade 6 exam was positive (although a little personally intimidating). The mock exam preceding the actual one was also most helpful. I found your Master Classes very interesting and informative. Such topics as Dealing with Nerves, and The Art of Breathing were especially beneficial for me, and for every student intending to do auditions or exams.

In conclusion, I would like to express my personal thanks to you Elisabeth for providing me with so much knowledge of myself as a singer and as a human being.

Yours sincerely,



Susan Robins