

Vanessa DINNING

Voice & Music Studio: 2024-2025 Policies

TUITION & PAYMENT INFO

PRICING STRUCTURE

- Tuition is paid monthly. The same amount every month from Sept to June (June, July and August will be pro-rated per the school/academic calendar).
- Monthly fees are **ONLY** pro-rated when a studio-determined closure means a student will not get all 4 lessons in any given month. (Please see Studio Calendar doc)
- Student absence during the academic year (Sept 1 and June 5) will **NOT** result in a pro-rated monthly lesson fee, even with notice given. (See Missed Lessons and Make-Ups document)
- All students will pay the same rate, based on the length of their lesson. (See below)

LESSON RATES 2024-2025 [UPDATED]

SEPTEMBER 2024-JUNE 2026

60 minutes 4 x per month - \$360 per month

30 minutes 4 x per month - \$220 per month

**Special rates for Seniors & Industry Professionals. Please ask.*

YOUR FEE INCLUDES 4 LESSONS PER MONTH. Students are expected to take 4 lessons per month. Bi-weekly lessons are sometimes available, upon request.

Lessons are scheduled on the same day and at the same time each week whenever possible. The schedule is laid out and agreed upon at the beginning of each academic year. Please plan accordingly when considering other activities. It is VERY DIFFICULT to re-schedule lessons and new times other than those initially agreed upon cannot be guaranteed.

When is payment due?

- Payment for **ALL STUDENTS** is due on, or before, the **last day of the month for the following month**. i.e., Payment for October is due on or before the last day of September 30th, etc.
- **[NEW]** You will receive an email/text about 15 days before the end of the month asking you to confirm your lessons for the following month. Please respond confirming your regular days and times. If for any reason a student must miss a lesson, please let Vanessa know ASAP. If she does not hear from you, it is assumed that the student will be attending all lessons the following month in their regular slot.
- Invoice will be sent approximately 7-5 days prior to the due date.
- **[RE-INSTATED]** A late fee will result in a fee of \$100 charged on the next monthly invoice.

Your lesson rate includes:

- One-on-one tuition with Vanessa

Vanessa is one of San Diego's most sought-after, award-winning, conservatory-trained, voice specialists and music teachers with 25+ years' experience teaching and coaching beginners to pros!

She holds a BFA (Classical Music and Theatre, The University of Surrey, London) an MFA and an Honorary PhD in Voice Teaching and Pedagogy for Actors with specialisms in Singing, Dialect for Theatre, and Shakespeare (both from the Royal

Central School of Speech and Drama, London.) She is a member of VASTA (The Voice and Speech Trainers Association) and UK Actors' Equity.

- 4 lessons per month unless the studio is closed. (Please refer to annual studio calendar)
- Your day and time slot reserved for you. *If payment is late, your slot may be given to another student.*
- Advance invoicing and receipts for payment
- A personal digital folder containing all sheet music and other resource materials (and for singers, backing tracks and practice tracks)
- Hard copies of all sheet music provided. Students may choose to purchase their own sheet music, but this is not required.
- For voice students, customized backing tracks are provided when needed for performances, auditions, and practice.
- Self-tapes for auditions and college submissions, filmed and edited (with blue/green screen, graphics etc.) as needed. Extra time can be scheduled if needed at the regular hourly rate.
- Audition information and coaching for both singers and cellists for local youth theatre, community and professional productions, and youth orchestras.
- Live Recitals at no additional cost to participants or their families. Performance venue rental and pianist fees are covered by the studio. Recitals are usually once a year.
- Studio Admin costs, Subscriptions, and Studio Admin times/prep etc.
Some teachers charge for many of the included services-such as the cost of recital, tracks etc.- or simply not even offer these services. If a student requires help outside of regularly scheduled studio time for recording or self-tapes then there may be an additional charge. If a live accompanist is needed, then the student may pay the accompanist directly at the accompanist's own rate. (Vanessa is happy to recommend and facilitate excellent additional musicians if needed).

MISSED LESSONS

Vanessa has always been very flexible about missed lessons and make-ups.

However, each year when totaling the number of "make-up hours," it is always well over 150 hours on top of regularly scheduled studio time. That's the equivalent of 4 weeks of work for someone who works the standard 40-hour week! I'm sure you agree, this is not sustainable. Could you imagine if you're employer asked you to work an extra 100+ hours outside of office time for no extra compensation?

These protocols differ from previous years.

I ask respectfully that you read these carefully and do your best to adhere to them and that you ONLY cancel when you absolutely have to and have already tried alternatives for your other activities. My schedule is EXTREMELY tight with very little wiggle room for make-ups. **Please expect these protocols to be enforced.**

- If a student must miss a lesson, then 24 hours' notice must be given. If not, then the lesson must be paid for, *without offer of a make-up.*
- If sufficient notice is given, Vanessa will do her best to offer a make-up lesson within 60 days of the missed lesson, but this is never guaranteed.
- Pro-rated monthly fees, refunds, credits, and rollovers are not given under any circumstances when the lesson is missed or cancelled by the student, even when sufficient notice is given. *Please do your best to plan ahead and give as much notice as possible.* Vacations, sports (even if last-minute), too much homework, or "I haven't had time to practice enough" are **not** considered valid reasons for missing lessons. With notice, make-up options may be offered.
- In an emergency, Vanessa will-of course-be as flexible as possible and do her best to accommodate.

- Online Lessons via Zoom or FaceTime are a great way to ensure lessons still happen if transport or mild sickness is an issue. Please always ask for this alternative.
- No more than two (2) make-ups can be pending at any one time.
- If you cancel your make-up lesson, it cannot be re-scheduled.

SICKNESS, STUDENT VACATION & DISCONTINUING LESSONS

If a student is sick, please give as much notice as possible. We will try to schedule make-up lessons in these instances. **Sickness includes colds, coughs, runny noses and sniffles.** It is important that sick students take the time to heal and look after themselves. If a sick student attends a lesson, this puts both other students and the teacher at risk of infection.

If the student feels well enough to take a lesson, please consider a virtual lesson so that the sickness is not passed on to Vanessa or to other students.

If a student comes to a lesson and is sick or potentially contagious, they will be sent home immediately and that lesson will still be paid for. Let's do our best keep each other healthy!

STUDENT VACATION & EXTENDED BREAKS

If a student takes a vacation, a **minimum of 30 days' notice** is requested. An extended break is considered one month or more. This is particularly important in the summer months. If several student families all take off at the same time, time is needed to re-arrange the schedule and the studio, as studio rent is paid two months in advance. A lesson retainer fee may be negotiated or the student risks losing their time slot.

If the vacation is a last-minute decision, then monthly lessons must still be paid for. If Vanessa is able to find another student to take your slot whilst you're on vacation, then the lesson rate will be adjusted accordingly.

Student families may opt to pay the regular monthly amount as a retainer to ensure their spot is reserved.

DISCONTINUING LESSONS

Please provide 30 days' notice if you wish to discontinue lessons. If 30 days' notice is not given, then the student pays for those lessons. *Refunds are only given if 30 days' notice is provided.*