

## 2021-2022



# Student Handbook

*I pledge my artistic efforts to build*  
**Confidence**, for sharing my message  
**Passion**, for hearing my heart, and  
**Connection**, for building community.

# Songflight Studio

Helping performers soar by nurturing Confidence, Passion, and Connection.

## ESSENTIAL STUDIO INFORMATION



**Songflight LLC**  
is the parent entity of:

- Songflight Studio, which hosts our online group classes with a variety of great teachers, ~and~
- The private teaching studio of Amber Nicole Dilger

## Contact Information

*Email is preferred:*

[soarwithsongflight@gmail.com](mailto:soarwithsongflight@gmail.com)

All studio communication is via email, so please **add us** to your email's "safe" list.

**Mobile: 773.844.2022**

[www.ambernicoledilger.com](http://www.ambernicoledilger.com)

[www.songflightstudio.com](http://www.songflightstudio.com)

Instagram: #songflightstudio

## \* Welcome! \*

*As always, there are exciting things happening in the studio! If you're a new student, we're glad you've joined us. If you're a returning student, here's to the continued adventuring!*

This student handbook will answer a lot of your "getting started" questions, as well as be a refresher for those signing up for another school year.

Here you will find information about scheduling lessons, tuition payment, what to bring to lessons, and more! Questions? Please don't hesitate to send an email.

## 2021-'22 IMPORTANT DATES:

- \* School year runs **August 1, 2021 - July 31, 2022**
- \* New Core Student schedule (*see calendar page*\*)
- \* Core Student Retreat **August 7**
- \* Regularly scheduled private lessons begin **September 1**
- \* NC-NATS Musical Theatre **November 5-6**
- \* Thanksgiving Break **November 25-27**
- \* Winter break **December 16- January 3**
- \* **January Term!** Dig deep into topics with online classes this month
- \* Private lessons resume regular weekly schedule on Thursday, **Feb. 3**
- \* NC-NATS Classical **February 18-19**
- \* Formal studio recital will be in **May**. Details TBD
- \* Last day for regularly scheduled private lessons **May 27**
- \* Summer lesson scheduling **June 1- July 31**
- \* **ONLINE OPEN MICS:** *see email updates for monthly dates*

# Studio Locations

## In-Studio Lessons

*111 Gorecki Place*

*Cary, North Carolina 27513*



The home studio is just north of Maynard Road and west of Harrison Avenue. It is the two-story sage & brick house on the end of the cul-de-sac of Gorecki Place .



## Online Lessons & Classes

**Zoom** is our preferred platform, which is available as a free download for computer and mobile and requires minimum set-up.

Zoom audio settings work best on a computer. For online lessons and classes to run smoothly from the first try we recommend that you:

- Test your video and audio ahead of time You may need to run updates, which may require a restart.
- Have the camera in a stable position (not held by hand!)
- Make sure you have room to stand and move while being seen by the camera.
- Check that you are well-lit, with bright lights or window light shining onto your face.
- Make sure what is seen by the camera is OK to be seen.
- Have all sheet music, books, pencils, and audio tracks ready to go.

### **ZOOM SETTING ADJUSTMENTS:**

**Computer:** Go into Zoom Preferences/Settings Click on “Audio.” Uncheck (de-select):

“Automatically adjust microphone volume”

Set “Suppress background noise” to LOW

Check mark: option to Enable Original Sound

Check mark: “High Fidelity music mode”

Check mark: Echo Cancellation

### **iOS:**

In the Zoom app, touch Settings.

Touch Meetings.

Scroll down and toggle **on** “Use Original Sound.”

When you are in a meeting, touch the “More” dots in the top right corner.

Touch “Enable Original Sound.”

Keep in mind, if you are using your cell phone for your video connection you won’t be able to play rehearsal tracks on your phone simultaneously. It is very helpful to have a computer or other device accessible that you can use to play the audio.

# Private Lesson Tuition

**Knowing that every student has their own goals and needs, we are excited to offer two ways to be a part of the studio family, private lessons and group lessons...**

**Core Students**, includes: (39 weekly lessons throughout the school year- see calendar, pg 5)

First choice at scheduling weekly private lessons, 30 or 60 minutes (13% discount)

see Lesson Scheduling: Calendar page 5 for more details

Studio Retreat Day Camp, online or in-person. (Overnight camp is an additional fee.)

Recital Participation: (All recital fees included)

4 large performance opportunities each year

First choice at choosing recital pieces

Guaranteed solos (if you choose) at the formal May Studio Recital

Participation in live-online group classes through Songflight Studio including

Practice Prep course & January Term courses (4, half-hour class credits)

Participation\* in National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competitions &

Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) Practical Instrument Exams

\*if applicable and requirements are met. Please note registration, room/board, travel, and accompanist fees are student's responsibility

Booked lessons can be gifted to anyone if you cannot make your reserved time, and

Asynchronous lessons are also possible if you cannot make your reserved time

First payment due July 1 for '21-22 school year (which begins August 1)

*Please note: the 30 day cancellation policy still applies, which includes a \$25 admin fee*

**Flex Students**, includes:

Schedule 60 minute lessons at your convenience, depending on calendar openings

Recital Participation: (All recital fees included)

Solos at recitals if we have a minimum of 4 lessons to prepare the recital pieces

Guaranteed performance in the group number at recitals

Participate in group live-online classes as they fit your schedule (purchase separately)

No minimum number of lessons required



**Flex Students, drop-in lessons:**

60 minutes, \$85

*Why not 30 minutes? If we don't see each other weekly, we need more time to really dig into the good stuff.*

**Core Students Discount Packages:**

30 minute lessons, 12 payments of \$140.25

60 minute lessons, 12 payments of \$260.50

Monthly Auto-Pay Option

*\*10% semester-only discount also available*

# Private Lesson: Scheduling



We use an online self-scheduling system where Flex students can schedule and pay for lessons. Core students with extra credits can also self-schedule. Access the student portal by going to:

[www.ambernicoledilger.com/current-student.php](http://www.ambernicoledilger.com/current-student.php)

The teaching studio is set up so that prepayment reserves your lesson time, and once scheduled cannot be “re” scheduled. Any lesson can be gifted to someone else, though, if you find you cannot make your reservation. Tuition details are listed on the previous5 page.

## ※ I CAN'T GET TO THE STUDIO FOR MY LESSON! WHAT SHOULD I DO? ONLINE LESSONS ※

There are times when cars don't work, weather is crazy, rides don't show up, or it's just too hard to make it to the studio on time, (and, oh yeah, *pandemics*)... it's OK! We can have a video lesson (or even an audio lesson) in these instances. If using our specific lesson time won't work, we can also do an asynchronous lesson where you upload a video of what you're working on and I'll give suggestions and critiques.

Please refer to the previous page for online lessons set up. The most important thing is to set up your software *before* we need it. It's also helpful to log in to your account 5-10 minutes before your lesson time and check to see if there are any updates needed (sometimes they require a re-start).



*“Going into our first lesson, I didn't consider the possibility that the session would focus on, or even involve, movement rather than just singing. But that's not to say it was disconcerting or uncomfortable! On the contrary, I was pleasantly surprised and really enjoyed it.” -Drew Nevitt*

## First Lesson Checklist *...ready to go!*

- Any song you love, (or part of one), to share with me if you feel comfortable.
- Clothes you can move in
- Questions you may have
- Any printed vocal music you already own
- How to address me?  
“Amber Nicole” is great!



# Private Lesson: Calendar

CORE STUDENT CREDITS 2021-2022 YEAR												
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July
Core Student Private Lessons	2*	4	5	3	3	2*	4	4	4	4	2*	2*
Core Student Group Classes	2					2						
	*flexible lesson scheduling											
	August group classes include the Studio Retreat Day Camp (in-person or online) and Practice Prep Online											
	January online group classes are student's choice, from any of the featured instructors											

## Holidays, competitions, recitals, Oh My!

Depending on your lesson day, you may have some lesson credits that you can reschedule to other days. You can reschedule these at any time in the school year.

- **Saturday** students will have the most credits to shuffle around (4). No lessons Sept. 4
- **Friday** students will have 2 to schedule elsewhere
- **Thursday** students are unaffected
- **Wednesday** lessons are unaffected. Please note: No lessons Feb. 2 or Mar. 23

### Special Events

**August:** Core Student Studio Retreat

**December:** Holiday Gift of Music Performance

**May:** Formal Studio Recital

**July:** Studio Summer Fun Performance Party

Online Open Mics most months

*"I love how online open mics provide a chance to practice performing in a supportive environment. Everyone else is just as nervous, and will support you as you work on your music."*  
- Molly, voice student



# Online Group Classes



Online group classes are a GREAT way to utilize the power of collective learning to help you have more fun and explore new topics in a cost-effective way. We are excited to connect teachers of national excellence with eager students from around the country, all on one screen! We keep live class sizes small so that the individual attention you appreciate with Songflight Studio is always available.

All of our classes run in sets of 4 class meetings. In some cases, you'll meet once a week for a month (online group voice and all January Term group classes), and other cases we have mini-camps that are concentrated into 4 days in one week (generally in the summer).

## Group Class Tuition

Each 4-session class is \$60 total  
(each class is 55 minutes in length)



*"I LOVED learning about musicians' daily lives, because it really gave me a view as to what I should expect if I am going/would like to have the same career as them. I also LOVED classes learning about health tips, as it is something I have been pondering over for quite a while. So... now that I know what to do/consider, I can follow through with those health tips and, hopefully, change the way I am living now so that I be healthy for the rest of my life! And, lastly, I LOVED learning about artists' college/high school experiences, as it gave me a perspective of what things/activities I should be doing now in order for me to take the appropriate steps needed to reach my goals. I want to remember that, when it comes to auditions, I should go in feeling confident. I should also go in feel myself. I shouldn't let the pressure/want of being a SPECIFIC character get to me... as it could hinder my performance. Additionally, if I don't get cast, I should just walk out saying, "Hey! You know, what? That was a good audition. I'm HAPPY." —Elena P.*

# Studio Policies

**By scheduling lessons, classes, or entering payment information for subscription billing you are agreeing to the studio policies that:**

- I understand that credit card and payment information is processed through the highly-secure [Stripe](#) payment platform, and Amber Nicole Dilger/Songflight LLC does not hold or manage any sensitive payment information.
- I understand that photos are sometimes taken at classes and events to be used in publicity and social media. It is my responsibility to declare if I want to be excluded from photos.
- I understand that all studio communication is via the email address I provide, and my information will not be sold or shared.

## PRIVATE LESSONS

- I understand that tuition covers lessons reserved, not lessons given. Before I can schedule a lesson time I will need to submit payment.
- I understand that once a lesson is scheduled, I cannot change the reservation day/time.
- I understand that if I'm sick or can't make it into the studio (weather, transportation issues, etc.) we can have our lesson online via Zoom or another agreed upon platform. Asynchronous lessons are possible with advanced notice.
- I understand that if Amber Nicole is sick or needs to reschedule we will find a time that will work for me within the semester.
- I understand that recommended lesson books/materials are my purchasing responsibility.
- *Core Students:* I understand that 30-days notice is required before discontinuing a reserved weekly lesson time and that I am responsible for the tuition for lessons scheduled within those 30 days. Any remaining balance will be refunded, minus a \$25 studio administrative fee.

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## GROUP CLASSES

- I understand that tuition covers my place in a class. Before I can join a class I will need to submit payment.
- I understand that once I am registered in a class, I cannot change the reservation.
- I understand that I'm unable to attend a class, I can request to watch the class recording.
- I understand that if my regular teacher is sick or needs to reschedule, there may be a substitute teacher or another class time that will work for everyone involved.

# Studio Etiquette



***The following guidelines are offered to help make the home studio experience run smoothly and comfortably for everyone!***

## **Arrival**

Feel free to park anywhere in the cul-de-sac so that we can leave the driveway open.

Please leave your troubles, and your outside shoes, in the foyer. Thank you!

I know how valuable everyone's time is and am very diligent about starting and ending lessons as scheduled. If you arrive late, we'll still end on time.



## **Waiting**

Welcome! Please enter through the front door. No need to knock or ring the bell, let yourself in :) There's a spot inside the door to hang your things as you arrive, and a bathroom on the right of the hallway. The waiting area is directly in front of you down the hallway. Please wait there until it's your lesson time, and I'll come and get you.

## **Your Lesson**

Remember to bring all lesson books/binder(s)/ devices to each lesson. Generally, if you show up without the needed materials we'll dedicate the lesson to music theory and sight reading.



## **Staying Healthy**

Please use the bathroom near the waiting room to wash your hands well before your lesson, and feel free to use the hand sanitizer near the piano.

## **\*Sickness\***

If you are sick *please* be mindful of others, especially the first day you feel bad and need to stay home from work/school... that's generally when you are the most contagious. We can always do an **online lesson** (see pg. 2).

*Also, if you've been sick, are now feeling better, but your voice is still weak—come to your lesson. We can work on many things and still have a fun and productive time.*



# Things to do nearby...

If you are dropping off a student and looking for something to do during their lesson, here are a few of my favorite places to go in the nearby area. If you are a parent and would like to sit in on the lesson, it's fine with me, but please check and make sure your child is comfortable with the "audience attention." In addition to the studio area, we also have a waiting area you are welcome to relax in. We have wireless internet you may use, just ask for the login info.



## Shopping Centers

Cross off some errands! The nearby Harrison Pointe Shopping Center has Harris Teeter, Pet Supermarket, Staples, and a variety of other stores and restaurants. Lidl is within easy walking distance.



## Downtown Cary/Regional Library

If you have an hour to spend, the center of Cary is about a 6 minute drive away. With the new Cary Regional Library and always improving downtown, you can explore the many wonderful things that the reinvigorated area has to offer.

*Proudly introducing your hosts...*



*Sabreena, the dog  
&  
Vesper, the cat*

Sabreena stays in her playpen with puzzles while we have our lessons, and Vesper is generally sleeping in a fluffy spot away from our lesson area. Please let me know if you have sensitivities.

Oh, and yes, there are humans...



*Paul Ester*



*Amber Nicole Dilger*