

Songflight Studio

2023-2024

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

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

Mobile: 773.844.2022

www.songflightstudio.com

www.ambernicoledilger.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 journey!

This student handbook answers a lot of "getting started" questions, and is a refresher for those returning for more growth and adventure.

Here you will find information about scheduling lessons, tuition, what to bring to lessons, and more. Questions? We look forward to answering your email!

Every student is unique, so we are excited to offer two ways to be a part of the studio family: private lessons and group classes.

2023-'24 IMPORTANT DATES:

- * School year runs **August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024**
- * Core Student Retreat **August 5, Howell Woods, NC**
- * Regularly scheduled private lessons begin **September 5**
- * Thanksgiving Break **November 22-26** (no lessons)
- * Winter break **December 16- January 2** (no lessons)
- * **January Term:** Dig deep with online group classes this month
- * Private lessons resume regular weekly schedule on Tuesday, **Jan. 30**
- * Royal Conservatory of Music: Exams recommended Dec/January
- * NCMTA voice festival Regional-**February 24th**; State- **April 6th**
- * Formal studio recital will be **May 11th**. Details TBA
- * Last day for regularly scheduled private lessons **June 1**
- * Summer lesson scheduling **June 2- July 31**
- * **Online Open Mics:** 9/23,10/21,11/18,12/9~ 1/27,2/17,3/23,4/20,5/4
1:00 PT/2:00 MT/ 3:00 CT/ 4:00 ET. More details in upcoming emails.

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

**depending on your Zoom version, wording might be slightly different*

iOS:

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. You also won’t be able to choose “original sound” which will make it so that your dynamics and outer part of your range won’t be heard. It is very helpful to use a computer, if you can.

Private Lesson Tuition

Core Student registration is accepted at the beginning of the school year. There may be openings that become available during the year, and those are offered first to Flex and Group Class students.

Core Students, full-year tuition includes:

- 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
- Recital Participation:
 - 4 large performance opportunities each year:
Retreat Song Share; Winter Sing-Along; May Recital; Summer Fun Party
 - First choice for choosing recital pieces
 - First choice for online open mic pieces
- Participation in live-online group classes through Songflight Studio including Practice Prep course & January Term courses (credits for 4 class topics)
- Participation* in the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) Practical Instrument Exams, the online Hal Leonard Competition, and the North Carolina Music Teachers Association (NCMTA) festivals.
**if applicable and requirements are met. Please note registration, room/board, travel, and accompanist fees are student's responsibility.*
- Asynchronous lessons are strongly encouraged if you cannot make your reserved time, but your booked lesson time can also be used by anyone in lieu of your attendance.
- First payment due July 1 for '23-24 school year (which begins August 1)
Please note: 30 day cancellation policy applies (see Policies)

Flex Students, includes:

- Schedule 60 minute lessons at your convenience, depending on calendar openings
- Recital Participation: (additional recital fees assessed)
 - Solo at recitals if we have a minimum of 4 lessons to prepare the recital piece
 - 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

All students may participate in our live online open mics, held monthly during the school year.

Flex Students, drop-in lessons:

60 minutes, \$95

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 \$170

60 minute lessons, 12 payments of \$300

(Monthly Auto-Pay)



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

The teaching studio is set up so that prepayment reserves your lesson time, and once scheduled cannot be “re” scheduled. Switching to online is always an option, and any lesson can be turned into an asynchronous lesson or gifted to someone else if you find you cannot make your reservation.

※ 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 if you feel comfortable. We can also access it on YouTube.
- Clothes you can move in
- Questions you may have
- Any music books you've used in the past
- How to address me?
“Amber Nicole” is great!



Private Lesson: Calendar

CORE STUDENT LESSONS 2023-2024 YEAR												
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July
Core Private Lessons	2*	14	-----	-----	-----	2*	16	-----	-----	-----	2*	2*
Core Group Classes	2					2						
	*flexible lesson scheduling											
	August group classes include the Studio Retreat Day Camp (in-person or online) and Practice Prep Online											
	<u>January Term</u> online group classes are student's choice, from any of the featured instructors											
	38 private lessons total for the school year- (Aug 1- July 31)											

Holidays, competitions, festivals, Oh My!

Core students: 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 5 credits to shuffle around.
- **Thursday** and **Friday** lessons will have 1 credit to schedule.
- **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** students are unaffected.

Special Events

August: Core Student Studio Retreat

December: Holiday Gift of Music Performance

May: Formal Studio Recital

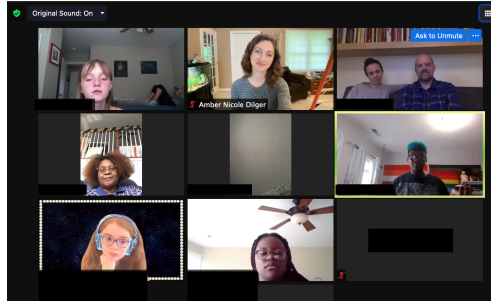
July: Studio Summer Fun Performance Party

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 with national recognition 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).

Explore more details at the Songflight Studio website: <https://www.songflightstudio.com/>

Group Class Tuition

Each 4-session class is \$85 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 have an [asynchronous lesson](#).
- I understand that if my teacher 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 an emailed 30-day notice is required before discontinuing a reserved weekly lesson time, and that I am responsible for the tuition for lessons and classes scheduled within those 30 days. Any remaining balance will be refunded, minus a \$30 administrative fee and \$185 special events fee for the year.

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!

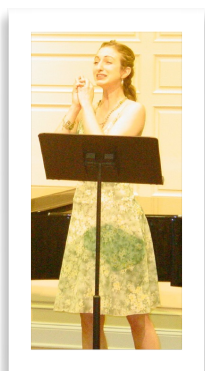


Arrival

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 side 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. If you've found this sentence, let me know and you'll receive a token of gratitude for your noticing :)

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.



If you show up at the studio exhibiting symptoms of being sick, you will be sent home immediately.

Staying Healthy

Please use the bathroom near the waiting room to wash your hands well before your lesson if you'll be playing the piano, and feel free to use the hand sanitizer near the piano.

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

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. **Online lessons** (see pg. 2) are always an option.

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. You are also welcome to use our backyard access to the Blackcreek Greenway trail.



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 play area 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