

I was lucky enough to study with the exceptional Karen Anderson for 5 years at the beginning of my journey to becoming a professional vocalist. Karen shaped my young voice with refined and strategic vocal technique that not only gifted me with an academic understanding of healthy singing, but also further fueled my passion for music. I am now currently working as an actor, singer and dancer in New York City's musical theatre industry. I can say with full confidence that my years studying with Karen were instrumental in preparing me for the competitive world of the entertainment industry.

Despite coming from a professional opera background, Karen has extensive knowledge about contemporary and classic musical theatre repertoire. Karen supported my dream to pursue musical theatre while still training me with the foundational classical vocal technique, an invaluable skill which has launched my professional career. Unlike many teachers I have worked with, Karen understands that each student has a different instrument and different methods of learning. She always made sure I comprehended her exercises and easily found new ways to translate her technique when I didn't understand. She tailored our lessons to fit my voice, my goals, and my strengths and weaknesses through all of the stages of my progress. In my professional experience, this quality to assess and approach each unique voice, conducting the lessons and technique to the individual needs of the student is only found in the best of private vocal coaches.

Not only does she have extensive knowledge of vocal technique, but is also currently active in the profession. It was important for me to find a teacher that was still working in the business and would give honest insight to the rigor of making a career as a vocalist. I've had the pleasure of watching Karen perform professionally and have gained valuable knowledge watching my mentor in action. Not to mention, immense admiration. She has guided me in practicing proper audition techniques, and helped honed my confidence when performing publicly.

The vocal foundation I built with Karen allowed me to flourish into a professional vocalist. I went on to receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre from Montclair State University, one of the top ten musical theatre programs in the country. My goal upon leaving college was to have developed an understanding of advanced vocal technique to make myself competitive in the professional musical theatre market, with an end goal of performing on Broadway. Before graduating, I booked a world premier of a new contemporary musical with a country-rock score called *Small Town Story*. My next professional job was a regional production of *Me and My Girl*, a golden age musical with a classical score. Having two consecutive jobs where I was hired on my ability to sing two contrasting vocal genres was my biggest indication that I was on my way to becoming the professional singer I had strived to be.

I cannot accredit my current vocal progress since college and beyond to my collegiate professors alone. I know for certain that I would not be the vocalist I am today without the solid foundation I developed studying with Karen. I am lucky to have found a brilliant teacher, but also a supportive mentor who has always championed my career and ambition. Studying with Karen was the first step to reaching my goals, and I will always be immensely grateful for the role she has played in my personal and professional life. I would highly recommend private vocal study with Karen Anderson