

Heg Brignall

Musician | Songwriter | Choir Leader | Teacher
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ONLINE SINGING LESSONS Guidelines

Zoom Link

I use zoom for all my online singing lessons. Other platforms are available if you are not able to use zoom. You will receive a link to use prior to your lesson. You do not need to have a zoom account to be able to use zoom. Simply click the link and it will redirect you to zoom in your browser (or in the zoom app if you have it). It will be the **same link each time** so save the link somewhere so you can find it easily.

Delay

Due to time delay on zoom, I will not be able to accompany you on the piano. We will work using a call and response format (eg I sing, you sing back) for scales, warm ups and exercises and for workshopping sections of your song. We will also need a pre-recorded backing track which you will play at your end or you can self-accompany. We may also work a cappella (without any accompanying music).

Preparation

Please allow 10 minutes BEFORE logging on to make sure you are comfortable with all of the following things prepared.

I will assist you in sourcing backing tracks and accompaniments where appropriate and ask that you make sure you that you prepare yourself fully before the start of the lesson by making sure you have the following;

- a notebook and pen
- music/lyrics printed or viewable from a separate screen (phones are not suitable since they are too small)
- music positioned on a music stand if you have one (or somewhere where it's easy to read like on a table).
- Accompanying music or backing track cued up and ready to play. It helps if this is played on a separate device
- Allow a few minutes before your lesson to make sure your sound and video are working
- Finally, if you have specific things you'd like to work on, which have changed since the last time I saw you, **please let me know ahead of the lesson**. If you have a song which is problematic or you have something you'd like me to hear before the lesson, please send over a recording of you singing the song which I can listen to before we meet.

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During the lesson

Please treat the lesson the same as if you were seeing me in person. Please dress appropriately and make sure you have space to stand up as well as hard chair (like a kitchen chair) to use when we do sitting work.

Please refrain from eating during the lesson.

Positioning your camera

The lesson works best if I can see the whole top part of your body rather than just your face. So I will ask you to step back, rather than adjust your camera position. Make sure you have enough space to work in. If you only have a small space, we can figure out the best position for the camera once we are online together.

Please keep an eye on your position on the screen. Make sure I can see you. Try to position your camera somewhere secure from an angle which is straight on rather than from below. The camera needs to be stationary rather than in your hand.

Sound quality

Zoom works best if you aren't right up close to your computer. If you overload the mic it can cut out. Consider checking the following before you start; go to zoom preferences in the menu and select audio. Make sure "Automatically adjust microphone volume:" is NOT ticked. Then go to advanced and select "show in meeting option to 'enable original sound from microphone'". Once you are in the lesson with me, in the top left corner there should be a box which says "turn original sound on" - click on it! If it says "turn original sound off" then leave it as it is. All this basically means is that I will be able to hear your true sound rather than the programme adjusting the volume.

Safeguarding

For those students under the age of 18, please use a common room in the house like a dining room (rather than a bedroom) where adults are nearby. It's important for me to say hello to parents at the beginning and end of the lesson.

Timing

Lessons wind down 5 minutes before the end so that we can review what we've done in the lesson and finish.

Technical issues

If you have any problems whatsoever, let me know and I'll be happy to help.

www.hegbrignall.co.uk