

Comments from Zoe Vandermeer's Singing Students and Speech Clients

Zoe is an extraordinary artist and highly perceptive teacher. Her insights into the complexity of vocal technique are immediate and profound, allowing for deeply transformative results. Her artistic talents as a vocalist, multi-instrumentalist and composer are remarkable, while she is a first-rate teacher of great acuity, and one whom I would highly recommend.

- Ahou Yazmeen

Zoe Vandermeer has molded me into a vocalist. When I first came to Zoe, my experience with music was largely based upon singing along with popular songs on the radio. In the beginning stages of my lessons, I couldn't hear the differences between notes and could barely maneuver through a scale. After three years of study with Zoe, I can now sing Mozart's 'Ach, ich fuehls', from his opera, the Magic Flute, with relative ease. I began with little to no knowledge of the technical workings of written music. I have since been taught the intricacies of note notation and have the ability to sit down at a piano with sheet music in hand and teach myself a new song.

My time at the Vandermeer Voice Center (California) under the instruction of Zoe Vandermeer has allowed me to develop my voice. I entered with a breathy, sloppy, all-over-the-place sound and now find myself singing clear, strong, full notes. I have made such drastic improvements because of Zoe's instinctual teaching style. She understands her students' needs in terms of vocal exercises, sound quality, etc. She has a sixth sense that allows her to understand strengths and weaknesses of her students.

I have relished my time with Zoe because of the leaps and bounds I have made as a vocalist. Zoe relates to myself and fellow students in a personable manner. It doesn't matter if the student is seven or seventy years old, she or he undoubtedly has a strong connection with this thoughtful voice teacher who highlights the lessons with jokes and colorful laughter. Her style of instruction allows for the balance between work and play. Zoe knows the time and place for fun and games, yet recognizes those times when a firm hand is necessary.

Zoe expects a high level of performance and dedication from her students. She will not accept mediocrity. Zoe recognizes the potential in her students even if they do not recognize it within themselves. It is her own dedication to the musical education of her students that has inspired me to reach the level of her expectations.

- Glenda Reed

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Zoe Vandermeer. During the four years that I have known Zoe as my voice instructor, I have been impressed by many qualities that make her an excellent teacher. Among these qualities are her insight into my specific needs as a student, her compassion for learning, her warm yet professional attitude and her commitment to excellence in teaching. She possesses attributes necessary for working with challenging students from beginners to professionals. Her interpersonal skills, devotion to her work, and engaging demeanor contribute to her well-rounded personality. She taught me a sound knowledge base in music with the help of her valuable years of experience. Thanks to her I am able to put that knowledge to use as part of the Stanford University Symphonic Chorus, which I would not have been fortunate to join if not for Zoe, who is clearly a most capable instructor. It is my distinct pleasure to recommend her.

- Dr. Cynthia Lorenzo

I have worked with Ms. Vandermeer for the past four years as a student of the Vandermeer Voice Center (California). Ms. Vandermeer has an incredible knowledge of music in all its forms, as well as an immense talent of her own. As her student, I have very much enjoyed my lessons with her, and would recommend her to anyone, wishing to enlarge their own musical abilities. I have found her to be a very dedicated musician to her own music as well as her students. And she is seemingly tireless when it comes to planning new projects for the Vandermeer Voice Center.

- Jane Billingham

Zoe's qualifications bring an ocean of talent to her instruction. Full of craftsmanship and skill, her music leaves an indelible impression of genius. By following her example, I have developed the vocal skills necessary for marketing my first novel. Zoe Vandermeer allows her students to struggle with the demons holding them back. In her meditative attention to blockage, she fosters a healing, bringing forth an awareness of unimaginable possibilities. Part angel, part school-marm, part chanteuse, Zoe is a zephyr of a mentor.

- Alison Fenton

*My work with Zoe, is an answer to my prayers! For years **preaching** was a struggle for me. I was always clear on **what** I want to say, I did not know **how** to say it. After just one session, I was able to come out of the pulpit, work with my breath and focus my energy to support the message. That Sunday I actually had fun preaching and the congregation was liberated to have fun too. With Zoe's help, my message became more than just words: I became the vessel for the Breath of God to move through and reach the people! I am actually looking forward to my next sermon. I Thank You, and my Congregation Thanks You!*

- Alexandra, Pastor Skyline UCC

I want to thank you so much for the wonderful class we had this summer(2003) ... I learned so much ... I am taking new joys in singing ... and I would never have even considered joining a chorus were it not for your positive influence

- Alan E.