

Teaching Philosophy – Gabrielle Stahlschmidt

My teaching philosophy is rooted in the belief that the voice is both a physical instrument and a deeply personal form of expression. As an educator, my mission is to integrate the art and science of singing; cultivating singers who not only perform with beauty and confidence but also understand how and why their voices work.

My approach is holistic, evidence-based, and centered on each student's individual development. I view vocal instruction as a process of guided discovery, empowering singers to become self-aware, self-sufficient artists capable of identifying sensations, adjusting coordination, and communicating authentically.

In every lesson, I work to blend **scientific understanding with artistic intuition** in ways that make sense to each singer. We explore how breath, body, and sound work together, learning to release tension, strengthen coordination, and find a natural balance between power and ease. I help students recognize what healthy singing *feels* like, so they can reproduce it consistently and confidently. I also help students explore kinesthetic awareness and motor learning, developing coordination through mindful repetition and targeted technical application. By grounding vocal growth in the biomechanics of phonation, singers gain a tangible framework for consistent, healthy vocal production across styles and demands. Whether we're building range, improving tone, or finding freedom in their range, the goal is always to make singing feel natural, expressive, and sustainable for life. I am passionate about integrating these two dimensions, combining functional voice science with artistic expression, to nurture singers who are not only skilled but also deeply connected to their craft.

However, technique is only part of the story. True artistry emerges when technical mastery meets emotional connection. My studio environment encourages exploration, vulnerability, and creativity, where each singer can connect deeply to text, emotion, and purpose. I aim to nurture confident communicators who understand that authenticity and musical storytelling are as essential to performance as resonance and breath flow.

Equally important is cultivating the psychological and emotional foundation for artistry. Through principles of cognitive learning and motivation, I help students recognize the relationship between mindset and performance, transforming fear into freedom. Lessons are collaborative, adaptive, and goal-oriented, designed to build both technical resilience and artistic identity.

Beyond the individual voice, I believe in the power of community. Through masterclasses, showcases, and shared learning experiences, my studio fosters connection and mutual support - vital in an art form that often demands vulnerability.

Ultimately, my philosophy can be summed up in three pillars: **science, artistry, and soul**. I teach singers not just to produce sound, but to understand their instrument, express their unique gifts, and use their voice as a tool for impact. Whether preparing for the stage, studio, or sacred space, my goal is to guide each student toward freedom, authenticity, and lifelong vocal health, because when a singer truly understands their voice, they also find their voice.