

Connections Mentorship Program Description and Mission

Description

The New England Region Connections Mentorship Program is an initiative designed to foster communication and tutelage between professional teachers of singing and early-career or student voice instructors. This opportunity aims to nurture independent ongoing connections among voice teachers in New England and the Atlantic Canadian Provinces. The Program Coordinator will pair one mentor with one mentee at a time. The desired teaching/learning goals of each student voice instructor based on their declared interests and needs will be taken into consideration in the matching process.

Timeline

Participation in the Connections Mentorship Program will run throughout the year to accommodate the flexible scheduling needs in order for the mentors and mentees to coordinate and ideal time to meet. The program asks participants to initially be available for 1–3 single-hour sessions either virtually, in-person, or a hybrid mix. Additional time or connections outside those facilitated by this program may be conducted at the discretion and interest of the mentor and mentee.

Activity

The purpose of this program is to focus on the experience, skills, and tools needed for the art of teaching voice and should not be used to seek personal singing career advice, research skills, or activities unrelated to the teaching of singing. Customized according to the needs of the mentee, the mentee will have the opportunity to demonstrate their developing teaching skills and receive detailed instruction feedback from their mentor on a variety of topics and concepts related to teaching voice, such as vocal pedagogical skills, teaching advice, lesson observation, and independent studio advice.

Participant Criteria

- Mentor: Seven or more years of voice teaching experience.
- Mentee: Early-career teachers with fewer than seven years of teaching experience, student voice teachers with no years of teaching experience, or current university students.

Mentorship Activities

- Commercial Music Pedagogy: Skills, techniques, and teaching tips for Commercial Music singing styles.
- Musical Theatre Pedagogy: Skills, techniques, and teaching tips for Musical Theatre singing styles.
- Western Classical Pedagogy: Skills, techniques, and teaching tips for Western Classical singing styles.
- Observation: Observations of a mentor teaching in their studio or rehearsing.

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- Teaching Feedback: Advice from a mentor after watching a mentee teach.
- Career Advice: Feedback from a mentor about a mentee's career goals.

Additional Details:

- Participation in the Connections Mentorship Program is voluntary and uncompensated.
- Complete the Interest Form on nenats.com to be paired.
- Prioritize your engagement, and be respectful of one-another's valuable time.
- Be willing to engage in thoughtful conversations on improving specific teaching skills.
 - Mentors are asked to provide honest and kind feedback when encouraging Mentees in developing new skills and/or materials.
 - Mentees are asked to respectfully explore new ideas and be receptive to feedback from Mentors.