

Steven Tietjen

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great honor and pride that I write in praise of Mr. Harry Dworchak. I've only been able to study with Mr. Dworchak for one full academic year, but I have been amazed by my own progress and by the progress of my peers from incoming freshman to graduating seniors.

Mr. Dworchak is an excellent teacher; there truly is no one who teaches like he does. He doesn't have any special vocal "tricks," complicated explanations, or diluted language choices to illustrate good vocal technique. Through the simplicity of his method of teaching vocal technique, I have been able to not only sing well in my lessons, but I can recreate the process in the practice room. Also, when I perform my thought process isn't "how is this going to come out today?!", but instead I know that if I think pure vowels I will be fine.

Mr. Dworchak, while very thorough, also wants the student to discover some things on your own, knowledgeable of the fact that every student thinks, hears, and understands differently. I found this aspect of his teaching most helpful since it has made me more independent as a singer.

In addition to his expertise as a vocal technician, Mr. Dworchak also cares genuinely about each of his students from the most talented to the student who is struggling the most. For example, Mr. Dworchak approached me one day and told me that he'd think I'd make a great teacher one day. Consequently, I spent as many hours a week in his lessons absorbing all his knowledge and noticing how he can teach twelve hours a day and never tire out. I feel as though he has handed my career to me.

Lessons are always saturated with information, but also fun. Between vocal exercises, Mr. Dworchak will tell stories about his history as a performer to relax the student. Often times after a little conversation, I've been able to accomplish something that five minutes ago I had thought impossible.

I hope you seriously consider welcoming Mr. Harry Dworchak to your vocal faculty. The faculty and students will love him as he was loved by all his students so briefly at Carnegie Mellon. It is with great sorrow that I am forced to say good-bye to my mentor and friend, Harry Dworchak, and I am envious of the students at the next school he chooses to teach at.

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