

Luke Palmer  
2006-12-05  
EMUS 1184

## What have I learned in voice class?

The most beneficial thing about the class is the most difficult to put into words. The biggest factor in learning to become a musician is experience, and I will be walking out of this class with a semester's worth of experience with my voice and with an expert who helps me improve faster. That's what I value in this course.

My friend Colette once said, "every teacher should always be learning a new foreign language or a new musical instrument in order to remind him what it's like to feel completely stupid." I haven't been a beginner musician in a long time, so this has been an interesting experience. I had forgotten (or never knew) the *incredible* value of practicing. Starting a new piece sometimes feels like just learning to drive; there is way too much to keep track of. Working for just an hour with a piece adds enough solidity and comfort to be able to bring out one aspect and work on it, without worrying about the others.

I learned about the power of control over breath. Before this class, I had always thought about tone and the shape of the mouth being the two most important things about voice. Now I see that from powerful, directed, and controlled breath the other aspects follow quite easily. Determining beforehand where and how to breathe in a piece makes its performance flow much more easily.

The effectiveness of small corrections in music never ceases to amaze me: whether it is the use of the pedal or accentuating staccato on my piano, or reshaping a vowel or articulating consonants a little more in my voice. I'm still not quite sure what to do when in that area; I need Lucas's guidance. But I think that will come with experience.