

Dr. Shannon Coates

Singer | Educator | Maximizer

Pilfering the Ivory Tower on behalf of Independent Voice Teachers since 2010

Principal adjudicator for Vocal and Musical Theatre Classes



Shannon Coates is a singer, voice teacher, and voice educator who holds three vocal performance degrees from the University of Toronto, culminating in a Doctorate of Musical Arts specializing in Voice Pedagogy.

Following nearly two decades of owning and operating a successful independent voice studio in dual urban and suburban demographics (where she taught all the singers you find in every voice studio; from the six-year old who practices more than the rest of the studio combined, to the chorister who has been singing The Messiah from memory since before you were born, to the teenager who is finding new

purpose in life through music, to the singer-songwriter whose poetry makes you weep, to the pro and pro-track performers who want a technique refresh), Dr C shifted her focus to working exclusively with voice teachers and to developing training and educational resources specifically for independent teachers.

In addition to her mentoring role, she regularly contributes to the larger voice teaching community through service to voice associations (most recently as a member of the Nominating Committee for the National Association of Singing's ("NATS") Journal of Singing's Editor-in-Chief), presentations at international conferences (most recently presenting, "Classroom Strategies for Independent Voice Studios" with fellow Canadians, Gabriela Farias and Sara Campbell at the NATS 2022 National Conference in Chicago), writing for professional journals (most recently, "Neurodiversity in the Voice Studio, Clinic, and Performance Space: Using a Neurodiversity Affirming Lens to Build More Inclusive Spaces for Singers" in the Nov/Dec 2022 Journal of Singing, and by speaking to associations and teacher groups throughout the world (most recently, as a KeyNote Speaker for the Australian NATS National Conference in September 2022).

Dr C enjoys a significant social media presence, which she uses to curate and distribute information related to voice pedagogy, and to promote and discuss the subjects she is especially passionate about: making teaching best-practices explicit and applicable in the independent voice studio and creating inclusive voice studios. The VoicePed UnDegree; an online training course designed specifically for independent voice teachers to be able to complete from the comfort of their own homes/studios/offices (I'm not judging) while not having to stop teaching in order to get better at, well, teaching, launched in September 2022 with a cohort of teachers representing six time zones. More information can be found at: www.drshannoncoates.com.