

Testimonials

I have known Mr. Taylor for more than fifteen years. We were first introduced at the student auditions for the National Association of Teachers of Singing in 2002. At that time, I was so impressed by the technical ability of his students that I asked if he might be interested in coaching a few of my own high school students, with the option of teaching them later at the college level. I was very impressed with his knowledge, insight, and especially with the care that he showed in guiding these students. I encouraged all potential singers with whom I came in contact to work with Mr. Taylor whenever possible. This was a decision that I have never regretted.

Even though we now live several hundred miles apart, I still have Jim coach my students via Skype whenever possible. In my opinion, he is among the best vocal coaches in The United States.

Gene Anne Gifford

Music Director Tennessee Valley Art Association

James Taylor studied Russian diction and repertoire with me at Yale in 1997. At that time he already sung in Italian, French and German. He had a beautiful baritone, and learned and memorized music independently and extremely quickly. I found James passionate about his studies and simply said, about music. He was well prepared for his recitals and could step into a role seemingly at a moment's notice at New York City Opera and Central City Opera. It is with the greatest confidence that that I endorse James Taylor!.

Thank you,

Emily Olin,

Yale University

FORMER STUDENTS

It is my great honor to write today in support of Mr. James Taylor- my teacher, mentor, and dear friend. We are blessed every so often with people in our lives who make a truly significant impact on our course, and Mr. Taylor has absolutely been that in my life and the lives of so many others.

I met Mr. Taylor as a student at the University of Virginia in 2007. I was pursuing my degree in music and immediately joined Mr. Taylor's studio upon his arrival. After just one lesson, his passion for singing and bringing life and artistry to the music was readily apparent, and I just had to be a part of it. Over my years at UVA in Mr. Taylor's studio, I grew immensely as a technical singer, as a performer, and really as a person. "Coach" Taylor (as I have now called him for many years due to our shared affinity for sports, as well as to his caring and motivational style of teaching) helped each student find solid technical footing, but also tailored lessons for each student to his or her needs and proficiency. Above all, Coach Taylor helped me find the joy of making music because he brought his own experiences from the stage and the business into the classroom, so that we could delight in what the future might hold- those real moments of artistry. His lessons gave us the tools for the stage and the real-world, not just the practice room. He stepped up to helped UVA found its own opera company for student performers and became a champion of so many efforts to get us real performance experience we could carry forth after UVA. Personally, after

eight years in Management Consulting, I called Coach Taylor in the Spring of 2017 to discuss my interest in leaving my job to fully pursue my passion for singing- the passion he helped cultivate. Ten years after meeting Mr. Taylor, I still view him as a mentor and a great inspiration, and I am proud to say that- with his help- I am indeed now pursuing an international career as a singer. Despite all of the business of his own life, Coach Taylor still finds the time to support students like me, and I think that speaks volumes to his character and immense heart. I will always hold my experience in Mr. Taylor's studio as some of the most valuable in my entire education. I consider myself so incredibly lucky to have studied under him and cannot urge more wholeheartedly that you consider his candidacy, that he may continue to profoundly and positively impact the lives of young singers and students.

Lawson Anderson

While I was in college, James Taylor provided me with the grounding for the beginning of my career. First and foremost, he helped me find love for opera, which I knew next to nothing about at the time. His dedicated teaching instilled in me a good basis of technique, style, and musicianship. And his easy, personable approach meant that I always felt comfortable working with him--in an art form that, in order for us to grow, is uncomfortable by nature. I'm incredibly grateful for Mr. Taylor's teaching and constant support. He's one of the reasons I'm now happily living and singing in Germany.

Mark Williams

James Taylor is an incredible voice teacher. He is charismatic, devoted, and truly helped me to bring the storytelling out in my musical theater singing. While in high school, I took lessons with James as I was preparing to audition for collegiate musical theater programs. From him I learned how to properly "belt". He helped me with everything from narrowing down which schools I would be applying to, recording material for an audition, and also choosing which songs I would sing at the audition to showcase my voice best. I don't know what I would've done without James!! With his help, I was accepted into The Boston Conservatory's musical theatre program, and am now a working actress auditioning in New York City.

Peyton Hayley James

"Working with James Taylor allowed me to craft both the belting and legit side of my voice. I was able to grow my range and now feel comfortable singing pieces I was previously scared to try. I felt prepared and confident entering the professional world of musical theatre after working with James!"

Alex Farnsworth

Mr. Taylor was my first classical singing teacher. He always pushed me to be as good as I could be, and without his influence I would not be pursuing a career in opera today.

Lisa Newill-Smith