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orchestra out of them, with some synth help, and then I mix in against the picture, and then I teach a course on film music ... and premiere their Hollywood scoring job at the end of it.

"And I've just been loving it," Thomas said. "I get to take all the questions they can throw at me — there's no real time limit. And I'm like, 'I love talking to young musicians.'"

He has 15 more such gigs lined up, and he's hearing from more orchestras all the time.

"I'm like, 'Whoa. I think I just tapped into something,'" Thomas said.

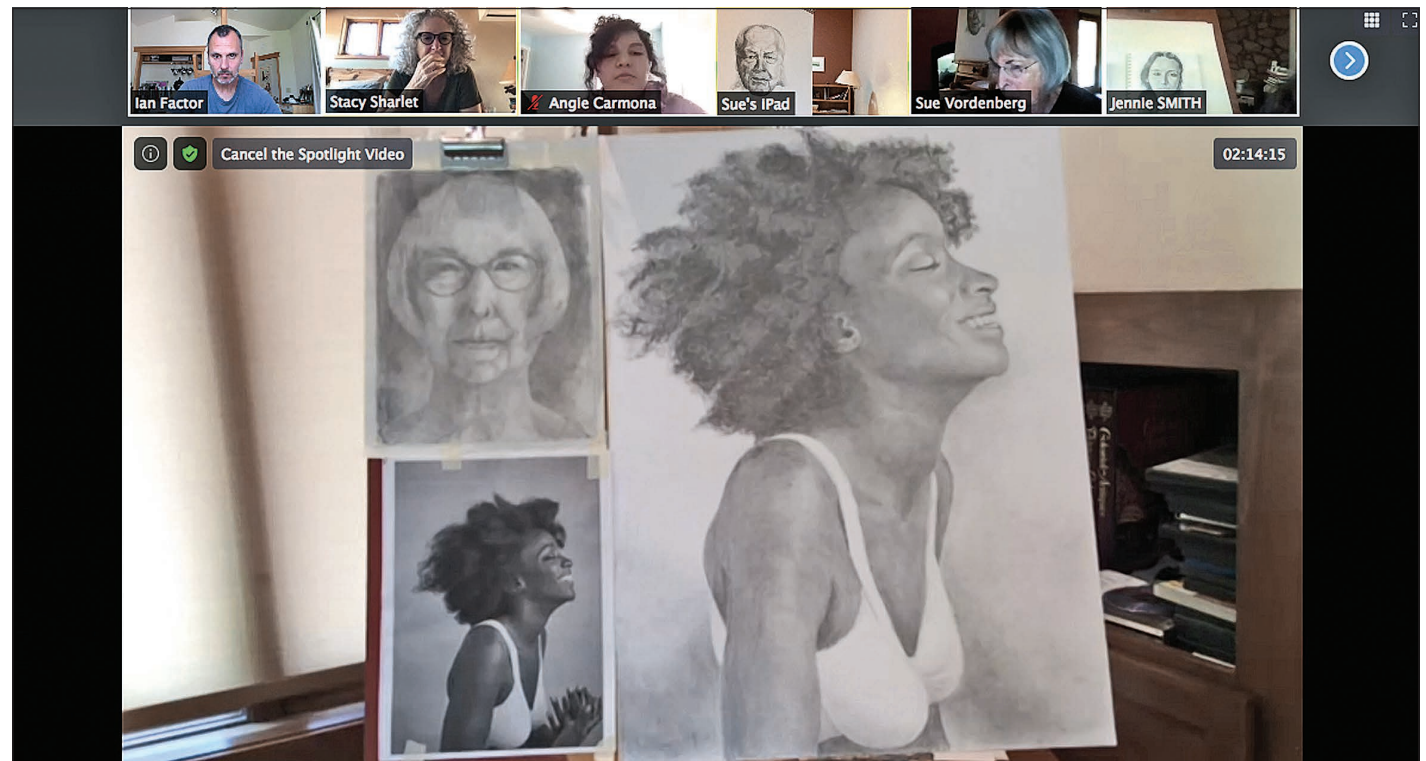
Like a lot of established teachers, art instructor Ian Factor, an acclaimed painter and the founder of the Bend Academy of Art, has found that online teaching can be successful — and that it's only as good as the effort both teacher and pupil are putting into it.

"You can have the most enthusiastic instructor who's got all the technology dialed in, and you just have a student who's checked out," he said.

"There's no, like, broad answer that can say everybody's taken to it well. Some have, some haven't."

When the effort on both ends align, good things happen, he's found.

"I do have a group of students who were training with me ahead of the COVID



This screen capture from the Bend Academy of Art shows a class in progress, with instructor Ian Factor at upper left and drawings by Sue Vordenberg, a local artist and regular student of the Academy. Submitted

thing, in person, and some of those same students have been with me every single class every term throughout this whole year,

online, and they're into it," Factor said.

At their recent last critique of the winter term of Bend Academy of Art, "I had a couple of students who were really just expressing their gratitude and their excitement with how this whole online thing has gone for them, and how impactful it has been, positively in their grown. So that was really exciting to hear."

#### Forging new paths

Singer and teacher Jacalyn and David Kreitzer moved to Bend last year upon retirement. David, a contemporary realist oil and watercolor painter who's been painting professionally for over 50 years, forged ahead during the pandemic opening Kreitzer Arts, a gallery at 20224 Archie Briggs Road in Bend.

"I am inspired now more than ever to continue painting and open a gallery here, because I believe the healing power of art is a means of connection to relieve the isolation and difficulties of these times," David said by email.

"The very essence of my life has been about painting only images I believe are beautiful, and providing healing and meditation through the power of art."

Jacalyn grew up in Bend, and in 1974, when she was 17 and the population was around 40,000, she moved to Los Angeles, where she went on to earn her Master's in Voice Performance from the University of Southern California.

From there, the mezzo-soprano went on to have a 35-year career as a soloist. She sang lead and comprimario roles with opera companies including the Metropolitan

Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, Paris Opera and many more, and served as a symphonic soloist with major orchestras from Los Angeles to Prague.

After retiring from her career, which included 24 years of teaching voice and producing opera at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California, she and David decided to move back to Bend.

That's only semi-retired: Jacalyn still teaches voice lessons privately, and said that her revelation has been to help her students in this trying time by waiving fees.

"I realized my former and new voice students I am teaching virtually felt lost during such isolation," she said by email. "Many of them had auditioned for and secured singing engagements around the U.S., and then lost the contracts because of company financial uncertainty. I realized the best way to help was to perk them up by teaching for free (my teachers ... first Robert Preston at Bend High and then Herta Glaz at USC did that for me) and inspire them to use this time to PREPARE. It's not easy, but a regime must be followed. The vocal and mental and physical health must be strengthened and maintained and skills improved to prepare for openings and new shows and new auditions."

Jacalyn had originally planned to open a physical studio in Bend "in order to concentrate on helping those with neurological disease to re-attain vocal plasticity," she said.

That's one thing COVID-19 can only delay, not prevent, she said.

"We will reopen, and I will do this."

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