

AREA 2 EDUCATION CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AC&C 2023

THURSDAY, April 20, 2023

What does the STORY behind the song have to do with SINGING! – Wendy McCoolle

In this hands-on class you will learn how important it is to understand WHAT we are singing about as it will have a significant impact on how you sing, your ability to sing as a unit, and with good vocal quality. We will listen to past quartet champions to understand the evolution of artistic singing, and experiment with different vocal exercises that accentuate Vocal Expression – a key element of the Singing Category.

What Shall We Sing in Contest??? – Kathy Greason

Just as the title suggests, this class addresses things that must, should, or might be considered in deciding what to sing in contest...

Better Alignment for Singing With Yoga – Angie Morton-Locke

Alignment based yoga applies very well to singers. Singers' yoga will help to warm up the body, releasing tight spots helping you create a better singer's posture and create more space in the body. If you have a mat you want to bring to this class, feel free, but it's not required.

Productive Rehearsals – Lynn Blakeney

We will discuss issues and fixes for rehearsals. We will also discuss all the ins and outs of having a productive rehearsal for your group.

Vocal Freedom – Release Your Natural Voice – Amy Patterson

We all want to sing freely, naturally, and with ease, right? How often have you heard a director or coach say "just release the tension" or "stop pushing the sound"? In this experiential class, we'll delve into the concept of primal sounds and natural breathing to help you find your best—and most natural—voice.

FRIDAY, April 21, 2023

Energize Your Chapters and Gain Members – Julie Schwingbeck

We will discuss ways to invigorate your members and grow your membership. Some techniques to achieve this will be presented, but expect the format to have a great deal of audience participation in round-table discussions. Tips for appreciating and utilizing the varied talents of your members to create a stronger chapter/chorus will be shared. Additionally, membership-drive resources and social-media strategies will be shared.

"Oh My Nerves!" – Conquering Performance Anxiety – Fatima Whelan

Amateur and professional performers alike have felt it at some point. Why and what happens to us when we do experience it? And what tools can we use to help us conquer it so we can have a successful performance on stage!

More than Notes and Words – Steve Tramack

Music is the language of emotion. It has the power to move, to heal, to inspire – both for the listener and performer. One of the keys enabling a performer to unlock the power of music is the knowledge of and sensitivity to what the composer and lyricist were trying to say. In this session, we'll take a closer look and listen to the various elements of melody (e.g., contour, movement, range, patterns), and how to interpret melody in conveying emotion. We'll look beyond the text into the subtext of lyrics, and aspects of storytelling in delivering your vision for the song.

Quartetting 101 – Ashley Lang

Have you thought about being in a quartet? Having trouble figuring out where to start or who to start with? This session goes over the basics of forming and building a quartet. Whether you are wanting to compete, or just perform. This is a great chance to bump into other people who are interested in quartetting and making some connections, as well as get information on where to start and great resources to use.

AREA 2 EDUCATION CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AC&C 2023 (CONT.)

FRIDAY, April 21, 2023 (cont.)

Youth Outreach – Michelle Dionne

We will discuss how to open doors to the community and youth near your chapter. We will discuss options and brainstorm ideas to give your chapter a chance to involve youth members in the amazing barbershop style. We will talk about how to overcome issues we face, use social media to create a positive image, and help find the right direction for your chapter to keep moving forward.

PVIs Under Glass / SEVIs – Amy Patterson

PVI = “personalized vocal instruction,” SEVI = “small ensemble vocal instruction.” Step out of your comfort zone and onto the “stage,” or at least, the front of the classroom. You’ll be asked to sing just a few lines of a song a couple of times, and we’ll go from there. Depending on the number of attendees, we may ask 6-8 people to help demonstrate small ensemble vocal instruction. This technique is helpful for working towards section unity. Requires a minimum of 2-3 volunteers during the class.

Look Inside the Music – Steve Tramack

A piece of sheet music is really a treasure map: one filled with clues to creating a living, breathing work of art. Presented with the gift of lyrics which convey emotional subtext; a melody that conveys a range of emotions through its sweeping grandeur, its pacing and shape, the impact of intervals; harmony that creates a fabric, creates drama through tension and resolution, and provides the landscape for the journey. Rhythm provides the heartbeat; embellishments propel the music, serve as bridges that tie the song together, and help to highlight the most important thoughts. When all of these elements work together, in the hands of a sensitive performer, magic ensues. This course looks deeper into an arrangement with which almost every barbershopper is familiar, and looks at how we can find more music inside this music.

The Poets, The Dreamers, and Me – Lynn Blakeney

We will discuss how to choose music that speaks to you.

Where can I find these songs?

What do we do with it once we get it?

How can we really bring it to life and make it believable?

Special Delivery – Susan Wood

Are you bored with songs in your repertoire? Do you wish they scored even better and/or were just plain more fun to sing? If so, this class is for you! Join me to learn MUS “pearls” that will not only give you a fresh take on any arrangement, but will instantly transform your musical delivery from merely “enjoyable” to *compelling*. You won’t believe how easy it is!

Authenticity In Performance – Fatima Whelan

Authenticity requires creativity and courage to bring out our own uniqueness as performers. We will explore how when we are freed to live in the music, the impact can be powerful!

Vocal Anatomy for Singers – Jen Wheaton

Ever wonder where our voice comes from? What is this vibration that we feel when we sing? Why do I need “more air” when I sing higher? And what is singing higher? Does the anatomy change or do things differently when I sing higher or lower? What about louder and softer?!?.....So many questions!!! If you’ve ever asked yourself or a friend any of these questions, or others, come to this class! We will learn about the structure of the voice and breathing mechanism, and we will talk about things that can go askew!