



**The Druid City Opera Workshop
at The University of Alabama
School of Music, Moody Music Building**
Sponsored by the UA Opera Theatre, Paul Houghtaling, director
May 14-21, 2011

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS:

Joy Renée Blackstock, soprano – Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas
Rebecca Castillo, soprano – Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas
Clifton Daniels, baritone – Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Dominique Duarte, soprano – Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky
Ashley Drake Estes, soprano – Hunter College, CUNY, New York, New York
Katy Green, soprano – Murray State University, Kentucky
Jordan Ellington Hammons, tenor – Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi
Perry Davis Harper, tenor – University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Jake Preston Hemminger, tenor – University of Alabama at Birmingham
Zane Lynn, tenor – Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mississippi
Leah Marsella, soprano – Sam Houston State University, Texas
Scott Pullen, tenor – Murray State University, Kentucky
Evelyn Rossow, soprano – University of Missouri-Kansas City
Courtney Stancil, soprano – Sam Houston State University, Texas

FACULTY ARTISTS:

Mr. J. Bradley Baker, pianist – vocal coach and collaborator, University of Alabama
Ms. Jennifer Bryant, soprano – stage director, University of Alabama
Dr. Kevin Chance, pianist – vocal coach and collaborator, University of Alabama
Dr. Jennifer Cowgill, soprano – vocal-pedagogy, University of Alabama
Dr. Susan Fleming, mezzo-soprano –lyric diction, University of Alabama
Ms. Jeanette Fontaine, mezzo-soprano – lyric diction, University of Alabama
Dr. Luvada Harrison, soprano – song techniques class, Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Dr. Alan Hicks, stage director – acting class, audition techniques, stage direction
Dr. Paul Houghtaling, bass-baritone – director, auditions techniques, University of Alabama
Dr. Linda Lister, soprano – yoga for singers, audition techniques, University of Nevada Las Vegas
Dr. Richard Masters, pianist – vocal coach and collaborator, University of Texas, Austin
Ms. Dawn Neely, soprano – acting techniques, stage direction
Dr. Christopher Mitchell, baritone – audition techniques, Murray State University, Kentucky
Ms. Viviane Wolfe, dancer and choreographer – dance classes, Oklahoma City, OK
Mr. Erick Wolfe, certified stage combat instructor – combat classes, Oklahoma City, OK

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Mr. Vincent Hale, Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL

CLASS, WORKSHOP, AND REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Some room locations TBA; exact rehearsal schedule (which scenes when, music or staging, etc.) will be posted daily. Most classes in the Choral Opera Room of the Moody Music Building, but a few are in other locations as noted.

SATURDAY, May 14 –

Various times arrival, airport pickups, dorm checkins. Welcome to Tuscaloosa!

7:00 Informal meet-and-greet in Choral Opera Room, tour of facilities, orientation. Then we'll all head out to eat together ... someplace. TBD

SUNDAY, May 15 –

1:00-4:00 Music rehearsals and coachings – most scenes will have their first rehearsal, and the session will include the first of the private coachings which will be scheduled through the week as well. All coach pianists

4:15-5:45 *From Poem to Stage: Communicating the Song!* Dr. Harrison
Pianist: Dr. Masters

An exploration of song repertoire and how it can be fully interpreted with an opera singer's skill set. Can they be staged? Why not! Will opera singers have opportunities to sing song repertoire after their degree recitals are over? YES !!!

BREAK

Early evening Late arrivals due to graduations (Hardin-Simmons University and Murray State University) – dorm checkins, etc.

7:00-8:00 *A Faculty and Guest Artist Soiree*
Followed by light reception and more introductions.

Participants in many summer programs often wonder why they don't get the opportunity to hear the faculty perform. Here's your chance. Those performing faculty who are in town at this point will perform a short program to show that we practice what we preach!

MONDAY, May 16 –

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| 9:00-10:00 | <i>Walking on Sunshine:
Dances of the 12th to 14th century</i> | Ms. Wolfe |
| | The first of distinctly different period dance and movement styles which will be explored through the week. | |
| 10:15-11:15 | <i>Learning to Walk: Self Awareness
and the Creative Mind</i> | Ms. Neely |
| | In this first of four acting sessions, Ms. Neely will get artists thinking about their acting skills in a new way by encouraging them to get <i>out</i> of their own way. | |
| 11:25-12:30 | <i>Slaps, Hair Pulls, and other Dirty Tricks</i> | Mr. Wolfe |
| | An introduction to stage combat techniques including slaps, hair pulls, chokes, scratching, biting, and other fun things for the stage! | |
| 12:30-1:30 | LUNCH – provided by Druid City! | Mr. Houghtaling |
| | During lunch periods, discussions will take place on <i>The Business of Singing</i> – resumes, headshots, websites, recordings, networking ... singing is our BUSINESS !!! | |
| 1:30-3:45 | Musical rehearsals and coachings TBA – both assigned scenes as well as private coachings on repertoire of your choice. | |
| 4:00-5:30 | <i>Catch Your Breath</i> | Dr. Cowgill
Pianist: Dr. Chance |
| | A master class and clinic on breathing techniques. | |
| 5:30-7:00 | Dinner on your own. | |
| 7:00-10:00 | Musical rehearsals and coachings TBA. | All coach pianists;
Stage directors if desired |

TUESDAY, May 17 –

9:00-10:00	<i>Jane Austin Social Dance</i>	Ms. Wolfe
	A session on 19 th century dance styles, because we all love Merchant Ivory films and their operatic possibilities.	
10:15-11:15	<i>Let your Body to the Acting</i>	Ms. Neely
	Further exploration of complete character through mask work and other techniques which isolate and focus on various body parts -- eyes, hands, feet.	
11:25-12:30	<i>Spiking the Punch and Kick 'em while They're Down</i>	Mr. Wolfe
	The basics of hand-to-hand combat.	
12:30-1:30	LUNCH – provided by Druid City!	Dr. Houghtaling
	More discussion and ideas on how to effectively market yourself in a competitive job market.	
1:30-3:45	Musical rehearsals and coachings TBA – both assigned scenes as well as private coachings on repertoire of your choice. Staging rehearsals may begin on some scenes.	
4:00-5:30	<i>Technique & Artistry: Finding the Balance</i>	Dr. Mitchell Pianist: Dr. Masters
	A master class on bringing art to life by putting your vocal and acting technique to work for you. This session will also include an inter-active discussion on the big 'P' word – preparation. What does it actually mean to be prepared?	
5:30-6:00	Dinner on your own.	
7:00-10:00	Musical rehearsals and coachings TBA. Staging rehearsals	All stage directors; All coach pianists

WEDNESDAY, May 18 – “BOOK DAY”

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| 9:00-10:30 | <i>Yoga for Singers:
Freeing Your Voice and Spirit through Yoga</i> | Dr. Lister |
| | An introduction to yoga and its significance for singers and all performing artists. Dr. Lister is the author of the new book by the same title and she will have copies of her book for purchase. | |
| 10:45-12:15 | <i>Singer & Actor: Acting Technique and the Operatic Performer</i> | Dr. Hicks |
| | Dr. Hicks is the author of the book by the same title which is about to be published by Hal Leonard. He will lead an acting workshop focusing on the three main components of action, and imagination and its use in character development ... imagine that !!! | |
| 12:25-1:30 | <i>Picking Yourself Up: The Art of Falling</i> | Mr. Wolfe |
| | The basics of falls every performer should know for safety, or ... how to fall without hurting yourself! | |
| 1:30-2:30 | LUNCH – provided by Druid City! | Dr. Houghtaling |
| | Still more business chat ... questions, strategies, ideas! | |
| 2:30-3:45 | Musical and staging rehearsals and coachings TBA – both assigned scenes as well as private coachings on repertoire of your choice. | |
| 4:00-6:00 | <i>From Tuscaloosa to Tuscany:
The Basics of Italian Diction</i> | Dr. Fleming
Pianists: Dr. Chance
Dr. Masters
Mr. Baker |
| | <u>With Italian food served!!</u> | |
| | <i>From Tuscaloosa to Toulouse:
The Basics of French Diction</i> | Ms. Fontaine
Pianists: Dr. Chance
Dr. Masters
Mr. Baker |
| | <u>With French food served!!</u> | |
| | Participants will be divided into two groups. From 4:00 to 4:55, half of the singers will be in the Italian room, half in the French room. At 4:55, the groups will go to the other room to change cultures – literally! This also become a light supper, and the dinner break on this day is very short. | |
| BREAK | | |
| 7:00-10:00 | Staging rehearsals TBA | All stage directors;
All coach pianists |

THURSDAY, May 19 –

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| 9:00-10:15 | <i>From Isadora to Martha to Irngard:
Modern Dance for the Modern Performer</i> | Ms. Wolfe |
| | A session on modern dance and movement styles ... a chance to think about moving your bodies in ways you probably haven't before. | |
| 10:30-11:45 | <i>Sound and Language</i> | Ms. Neely |
| | How important is it to be fearlessly inventive, to improvise with sound, and language? Find out | |
| Noon-1:30 | <i>Acting Your Aria:
Win the Job with Your Audition</i> | Dr. Hicks (Pianist: Mr. Baker)
Dr. Houghtaling (Pianist: Dr. Masters)
Dr. Lister (Pianist: Dr. Chance) |
| | The group will be divided in three groups for these simultaneous coaching sessions on an audition arias of your choice. Then, these arias will be performed on an afternoon concert. | |
| 1:30-3:00 | LUNCH on your own and prepare for concert! | |
| 3:30-4:30
(3:10 call) | <i>Druid City Opera Workshop in Concert</i>
Performance at Capstone Village
Retirement Community | All pianists |
| 4:30-6:30 | Dinner on your own. | |
| 6:30-10:00 | Musical rehearsals and coachings TBA. Final staging rehearsals, scene run-throughs, polishing. TBA | All stage directors;
All coach pianists |

FRIDAY, May 20 –

9:00-10:00

Unraveling the Assembled

Ms. Wolfe

Final movement session combining several techniques and combinations studied through the week in preparation for a dance performance on the final program.

10:15-11:15

Improvising with Voice and Song

Ms. Neely

The week ends with more improvisation – physical, vocal, musical. Material from the rehearsed scenes will be used so that skills and exercises worked on during the week may be practically applied to performance repertoire.

11:25-12:30

All Together Now

Mr. Wolfe

Stage combat finale, combining all of the week's techniques into a combat choreography to be performed on the final program.

12:30-2:00

Lunch on your own

2:00-5:00

Tech and dress rehearsal for final performance.

Tutti

Evening

Free – dinner together at the Red Lobster – it was a table for 24 people!!

SATURDAY, May 21 –

Sleep in and warm up on your own. Prepare for performance.

12:30-1:30

Shake those Nerves

Dr. Houghtaling
Dr. Lister

A light physical and mental warm-up with an interactive discussion on overcoming performance anxiety, relaxation techniques, helpful performance-day preparation strategies, and other topics to ensure that you are mentally and physically ready to give your best performances.

1:30-2:30

Dance brushup

Afternoon free to relax and prepare

5:45

Call

7:00

THE DRUID CITY OPERA WORKSHOP
Final Performance

Tutti

11:00

Cast party at Burke Hall (the dorm)

SUNDAY, May 22 –

Departures and return trips to airport. SEE YOU NEXT YEAR !!!