

Summer Voices!

At the Community Music School of Springfield

What to Bring:

- packed lunch and water bottle each day – *additional snacks will be provided*
- ideas for a solo piece – *Each student will have the opportunity to perform one solo piece in our final concert. Students are welcomed and encouraged to bring a list of ideas for their solo piece. Your assigned private instructor will assist you in making your selection at your first lesson.*
- Summer Voices Folder - *Students will receive a folder on Monday with all of the information and materials that they will need for their two weeks of camp. It is imperative that they bring these back each day. We ask that parents assist students in remembering to do so.*

We have a secure space to store personal belongings. Please note that cell phones will not be allowed on your person during the camp day, and should be either left at home or stored with personal belongings.

Check-In/Check-out:

On Monday, we will meet and check-in at 10am at the Robyn Newhouse Hall, located on the first floor of the Community Music School. This is where our head teachers will introduce themselves, provide a morning of orientation and musical ice-breakers for our students, distribute schedules with private instructor assignments and group assignments, and provide a brief tour of the school.

At the end of each day, parents/guardians must return to Robyn Newhouse Hall to sign their child out. Instruction ends at 3pm. All students must be picked up no later than 3:30

Parking and Directions:

The School is located at 127 State Street in Springfield. However, please use the School entrance on Stockbridge Street, opposite the parking lot and the playground. Please feel free to park in the school's free parking lot on Stockbridge Street for drop-off, pick-up and the final performance.

From points South

Travel north on I-91; take Exit 6 (Springfield Center) onto East Columbus Avenue. Move to the right lane and turn right on Union Street. At the first traffic light, turn left onto Main Street. Proceed several blocks and turn right on Stockbridge Street. The Community Music School is on the left and the parking garage on the right.

From points North

Travel south along I-91; take Exit 6 (Union Street). Turn left and pass under the I-91. At the next traffic light, turn left onto Main Street. Proceed several blocks and turn right onto Stockbridge Street. The Community Music School is on the left and the parking garage on the right.

From points East

Travel west on Rte. 90 and take Exit 6 off the Mass Pike to Route 291 west. Bear right and join I- 91. Take exit 6 (Union Street) Turn left and pass under I-91. At the next traffic light, turn left onto Main Street. Follow as above.

From points West

Travel east on Rte. 90 and take Exit 4 onto I-91 South. Travel South on I-91. Take Exit 6 and see directions above.

Who are your *Summer Voices* Instructors and Guest Artists?

Annie Lynch Stevenson (Summer Voices Director and Instructor) is a professional vocalist, guitarist, songwriter, performer, recording artist, and a Berklee College of Music graduate with a Bachelor of Music degree emphasizing vocal studies and world music. Annie's musical experiences have ranged from participation in Nashville bluegrass jams to intensive studies of traditional West African music in Ghana, West Africa, and collaborations in Siberia with the Tuvan National Orchestra. Through these travels and studies in world music, Annie has learned the intrinsic value of community-oriented music. Annie directs all youth singing groups at CMSS, and has nearly a decade of experience teaching group Children's Music classes in Boston, New York City and now the Pioneer Valley. She has also been teaching voice and guitar lessons, primarily in contemporary styles, for nearly ten years to students of varying experience levels, from ages four to seventy-six. Additionally, Annie has spent the past nine years leading the internationally touring Americana group, *Annie and The Beekeepers*, and has performed at such notable festivals as South By South West, Philadelphia Folk Festival, and Boston Folk Festival. Annie has three self-released albums and has had the honor of sharing stages with The Lumineers, Josh Ritter, Justin Townes Earle, amongst other greats.

Michaela Anne Neller (Summer Voices Assistant Director and Instructor) is an internationally touring musician, songwriter, singer and educator. Michaela received a BFA in Jazz Vocal Performance from the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music as well as a BA in Social Inquiry from Eugene Lang College in New York, NY. After tutoring through college, Michaela began offering private lessons in 2009. Her focus remains on Vocal technique, health and performance as well as beginner guitar, piano and songwriting with clients ranging in age from 4 to 60. She has worked in New York City public schools through various arts programs including Brooklyn Philharmonic's SmartArts, providing music classes to under-served students ages kindergarten through 8th grade and now lives and works in Nashville, TN. In addition to private lessons, Michaela regularly offers workshops and lectures around the country on songwriting, vocal performance and technique as well as vocal health. Combining both of Michaela's degrees, her topics can range from strictly music based to having a broader focus including lectures on caring for yourself, nurturing self-esteem and using music and one's voice as a creative outlet and a vital, healthy source for expression. She has three vocal technique and songwriting instructional books published by Mel Bay Publications. She has commercially released three albums of original material which were met with critical acclaim from the NY Times, NPR, Rolling Stone Country, the Boston Globe. She actively performs and tours throughout the US and Europe.

Mara Levi (Group Sing Instructor) began playing Suzuki piano at age 4, and added trumpet in 5th grade. Mara played in the marching band and jazz and wind ensembles throughout high school. At Amherst College Mara began singing with the Choral Society and with the a cappella group, The DQ. Mara also played trumpet in the Jazz Ensemble. Then, in 1996, Mara joined the band Kid Sampson and began playing electric bass. Mara wrote and arranged music for all of these groups including a Jazz Composition thesis in 1999. Kid Sampson stopped performing in 2001 but Mara continued pursuing a solo career and began playing acoustic guitar. Mara recorded three solo albums before joining with The Pushovers starting in 2008. Mara completed a Master's degree in Music Education at NYU in 2012 and has been teaching since then. Mara's family moved back to Northampton in 2016 and Mara currently teaches vocal music at Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School.

Throughout Mara's career, Mara has composed, arranged, and taught music in some form, and some of Mara's favorite experiences have been sharing music with students.

Liz Simmons (Private Lesson Instructor and Guest Artist) grew up listening to her mother sing traditional songs from Ireland, Scotland, England and America, as well as the New Orleans brass music her father plays, and was classically trained as a teenager. Since then, she has developed a unique vocal style that draws from her diverse musical history and she has also become a respected songwriter, with her original melody for the traditional song "False Sir John" reaching #1 on folk radio worldwide. She is a graduate of Goddard College (2005) where she studied American vernacular music of the 1920s and 30s. She performs with her own band LOW LILY, and also with the all-women group EVA, who can be seen onstage regularly alongside such luminaries as Livingston Taylor, Tom Chapin, and Melanie. She has also performed with Long Time Courting, the John Whelan Band, Sloan Wainwright, Lucy Wainwright Roche, and others. Her singing is featured in the film "Time and Charges", written and directed by Academy Award winner Ernest Thompson

Amanda Lauricella (Private Instructor) recently graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, receiving her Master of Music in Voice Performance, while working as the Graduate Teaching Assistant for the university's Voice Department. She received her Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the Crane School of Music at the State University of New York at Potsdam in 2014. Amanda has performed the role of Mabel in the University of Massachusetts's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*, as well as the Doctor in the world premiere of *The Scarlet Professor*. She has most recently performed the role of Gretel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* in February. She has also performed with the Berkshire Opera Chorus, Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and Washington Master Chorale. Amanda will begin her Doctoral of Musical Arts degree in Voice Performance this September at the University of Wisconsin Madison.

Tim Eriksen (Guest Artist) is an acclaimed singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist living in the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts. Early trained in South Indian classical music, Eriksen holds a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology, cut his teeth playing punk, world and indie rock in bands including the influential *Cordelia's Dad* (post-punk and folk) and *Žabe I Babe* (Bosnian folk and rock). His original songs have been recorded by artists including Alison Krauss and Joan Baez and appeared in films including the recent feature length documentary *Behold the Earth* and Billy Bob Thornton's *Chrystal*. His collaborations have included the twice Grammy nominated *Across the Divide* with Afro Cuban pianist Omar Sosa, composer Evan Chambers' symphonic song cycle *The Old Burying Ground*, touring and recording with Eliza Carthy ("the queen of English folk"), Esmá Redžepova ("the queen of Gypsy music"), and extensive contributions as a performer and consultant to the Oscar-winning film *Cold Mountain*. Having been deeply involved in Sacred Harp or "shape-note" singing for over thirty years he has helped spearhead an international revival of the music, teaching workshops across North America, Europe and as far abroad as Singapore. As a professor he has taught at Amherst, Smith, Hampshire and Dartmouth Colleges, Wesleyan University and the University of Minnesota. He is currently best known his powerful voice and arresting interpretations of American folksong, which have inspired a generation of performers including Sam Amidon, Anna and Elizabeth, Aoife O'Donovan and Abigail Washburn. Among many unusual biographical details he is known as the only performer to have shared a stage with both Kurt Cobain and Doc Watson.

Chris Capaldi (Guest Artist) – music faculty at The Wheeler School in Providence, Orff certified, Berklee College of Music Graduate in Voice Performance, and celebrated New England-based songwriter and recording artists.

2018 Summer Voices Schedule

Monday : Introductions

10am -10:30 : Check-in (RNH), Receive Materials, Introductions, Tour of School

10:30-11 Team Building/Ice-breaking Activities (RNH)

11-11:15 Break/Snack

11:15 – 12:45 Workshop: Vocal Health/Anatomy of the Voice/Group Singing Technique (RNH)

12:45 - 1:30 Lunch (RNH)

(during lunch break, students will have brief individual meetings with Annie to determine placement for private instruction and discuss solo pieces)

1:30-3 Group Sing (401)

3pm: Dismissal (RNH)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday : Core Schedule

10am – 11:30: Arrival, Group Warm Up, and Group Sing (401)

11:30-12: Lunch (RNH)

12-2 Private Lessons/Assisted Individual and Group Practice time (4th Floor)

2 - 3 pm: Workshop (RNH)

3pm - Dismissal (RNH)

Friday : Rehearsal Day (RNH all day)

10am: Arrival and Morning Meeting

10:15 – 10:30: Group Warm-up

10:30 – 1230: Workshop: “Open Mic”: Solo Performance Technique (Microphone and Stage technique/Addressing Performance Anxiety and “what-if’s”)

(there will be a 10-15 minute break in the middle of the “Open Mic” workshop)

1230-1: Lunch

1-3: Group “Dress” Rehearsal *(with another 10-15 minute break in the middle)*

3pm dismissal

Saturday: Final Performance!

-1230pm Arrival Time – group warm-ups and sound-check (*please arrive having already eaten lunch*)

-130 – Final Performance!

(Performance attire: Black pants or leggings and a solid top. Please no patterns, phrases or logos)

Workshops:

Monday: Michaela Anne Neller: *Vocal Health, Anatomy of the Voice*

Tuesday: Tim Eriksen: *Singing Traditions of the Pioneer Valley and Northeast*

Wednesday: Chris Capaldi: *Ear Training and Rhythm*

Thursday: Liz Simmons - *Cultivating a Life in Music*

Friday: Annie Lynch Stevenson - *“Open Mic”: Individual Performance Technique – each student will rehearse their solo piece for the group, learn about microphone technique, learn how to calm performance jitters, and gain effective communication skills with accompanist(s)*

FAQs

-What is “group warm-up”?

As a group, we will practice a number of vocal exercises to prepare one’s voice for singing, explore vocal range, registers and tones, and to learn and practice proper techniques to achieve optimum quality of sound and vocal health. We also use this time to learn and practice Ear Training through use of Sol Feg.

-What do students learn during private instruction?

Students will select and prepare their solo pieces for the final performance with their private instructor. Through this process, they will learn how to select songs and keys suitable for their voice. They will develop proper solo singing and performance techniques and cultivate personal taste and style.

-What is “individual practice time”?

While some students receive their private instruction, others can be using available rooms to practice and memorize their solo pieces, reviewing notes from workshops, working in groups or individually. Instructors are present to assist in this practice time.