Vocal Pedagogy: Practical Applications for the Solo Voice and Middle/High School Choirs

Designed for Choral Music Educators and Private Voice Teachers, this 2018 Summer Voice Institute course will focus on various aspects of the singing voice including anatomy and physiology of the laryngeal and breathing mechanisms, phonation, basic acoustics, vocal registers, pathologies, vocal health, and their direct application to the developing singer. For many singers, the choral director is the only ‘voice teacher’ they ever encounter. Thus, a clear understanding of the vocal mechanism including information regarding its care and development is highly important for choral educators. Voice change is an inherent issue when working with adolescent singers because it affects vocal expectations, literature selection, and development of the tone in choral and solo formats. Through the immediate application of course information, the stages of vocal development in both male and female singers, symptoms of voice change, range considerations, and literature implications will be addressed as topics of interest to teachers of private voice and both middle and high school choral educators.

Robert Best is an Associate Professor of Voice and serves as the Recruiting Coordinator for the Vocal Studies Division. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Vocal Performance/Pedagogy from the University of Colorado at Boulder where he studied with Robert Harrison and Barbara Doscher, the renowned vocal pedagogue and author of the noted pedagogical textbook The Functional Unity of the Singing Voice. He also earned BM (Vocal Performance) and MM (Vocal Performance and Vocal Performance/Pedagogy) degrees from Arizona State University where he studied with Jerry Doan. Dr. Best has taught Vocal Pedagogy to primarily vocal performance and choral music education students at Baylor for the past 12 years. Dr. Best has recorded for the Capstone Records and Innova Recordings labels, and has been featured in performances with Opera Colorado, The Colorado Symphony Orchestra, and the National Repertory Orchestra.

Lynne Gackle, Director of Choral Activities, Mary Gibbs Jones Chair, School of Music, and Professor of Ensembles at Baylor University, has long been an advocate for the power of singing as a catalyst for positive change and self-actualization in adolescent girls. Her landmark text, Finding Ophelia’s Voice, Opening Ophelia’s Heart: Nurturing the Adolescent Female Voice, is a synthesis of these ideas, reflecting her unmatched expertise on the working of the female voice and a lifetime of experience and research.

Testimonial for the 2017 Summer Voice Institute Vocal Pedagogy course:
“I feel as if many gaps in my knowledge of pedagogy were filled. I am truly appreciative of this class and the time and effort that went into organizing it.”