

**THE AMERICAN CHORAL FORM:
USING REPERTOIRE, RESOURCES
AND OUTREACH
TO PUT VOCAL JAZZ AT THE
AMERICAN CHORAL CENTER STAGE**

VOCAL JAZZ ROUNDTABLE

ACDA WESTERN DIVISION CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 2016

PASADENA, CA



**MODERATED BY
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NATIONAL ACDA R & R CHAIR**

ESTABLISHING VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLES AS A CORE OF THE AMERICAN CHORAL CURRICULUM

- MANY (MOST?) COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT THE US STILL LACK A CREDIBLE VOCAL JAZZ CURRICULUM. WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO TAKE TOWARDS CHANGING THIS?
 - WHY IS VOCAL JAZZ STILL A SPECIALTY OR “FRINGE” ENSEMBLE?
 - WHAT ARE THE SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS DOING?
 - THIS IS OUR CLASSICAL MUSIC – IT’S TIME FOR IT TO BE RECOGNIZED AS SUCH BY THE MAINSTREAM – TAKING ACTION
- OVERCOMING SIBLING RIVALRY
 - FINDING REPERTOIRE THAT BRIDGES THE WORLD OF TRADITIONAL CHORAL/A CAPPELLA AND VOCAL JAZZ – RAISING COMFORT LEVELS FOR DIRECTORS AND SINGERS WITH LITTLE OR NO EXPERIENCE IN VOCAL JAZZ
- THERE IS AN EXPLOSION OF VOCAL JAZZ COMPOSITION HAPPENING. WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE PITFALLS UNESTABLISHED ARRANGERS NEED TO NAVIGATE TO HAVE THEIR MUSIC PERFORMED?
 - MAINSTREAM PUBLISHING VS SELF-PUBLISHING
 - LEGALITIES
 - PUBLIC DOMAIN/COPYRIGHT LAWS
- RESOURCES FOR TEACHING VOCAL JAZZ
 - FOR THE UNINITIATED – TRAINING AVAILABLE
 - MEDIA – BOOKS, VIDEOS, APPS
 - WORKSHOPS/FESTIVALS
- IMPROVISATION
 - IDEAS FOR INCORPORATING IMPROVISATION INTO REHEARSALS
 - REACHING OUT TO JAZZ STUDIES/CHORAL ADMINISTRATORS/VOICE TEACHERS TO SUPPORT THIS INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF VOCAL JAZZ

“This is the only country in the world that systematically degrades its own cultural art form. And while it does that it pays servile attention to all the world’s other art forms”.

Jon Hendricks