# THE DYNAMICS OF VOCAL CHAMBER MUSIC

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#### **Vocal Chamber Music**

- What is this kind of music?
- What makes it different from solo and choral singing?
- What are its musical attractions and challenges?

 A vocal chamber music course for adult soloists and experienced choral singers.

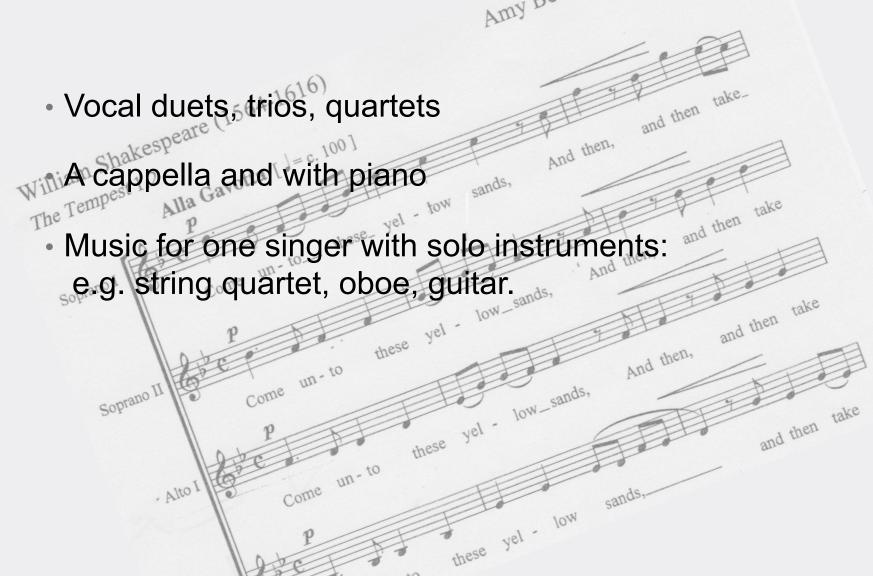
## What is Vocal Chamber Music?

 The key ingredient is one singer /one player on each part.





# Fresh Repertoire in Many Forms



#### A Different Music Making Experience



- The solo singer becomes an ensemble singer.
- The choral singer becomes a solo singer.

• If you are a Diva...



 If you are only free vocally in a big chorus...



Vocal chamber music is probably not for you.

## A Social & Democratic Way of Making Music

- Ensembles of soloists are partnerships of equals.
- Generating musical momentum of performances without a conductor is an exercise in teamwork.

Each performer,
 a good soloist &
 a good musical
 team member.



#### **Just the Best!**

 For many singing musicians, vocal chamber music is at or near the pinnacle of musical satisfaction.



# Satisfying in Many Ways

- Interesting fresh repertoire
- The intimate scale
- Being a soloist among soloists
- The risk, the freedom, of shaping music & performing without a conductor

## **Musical Challenges**

#### Singers must be able:

- to sing in tune
- to hold their part their parts in the ensemble

- to tune their voices harmonically to others
- to be aware and flexible

# Chamber Music at almost Any Level

for high school singers



#### For conservatory students



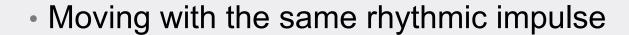
# **Choosing Repertoire**

- Is the music a good match to the singer?
- Are the singers in the ensemble a good match for each other?



#### **Ensemble Skills: The Ideal**

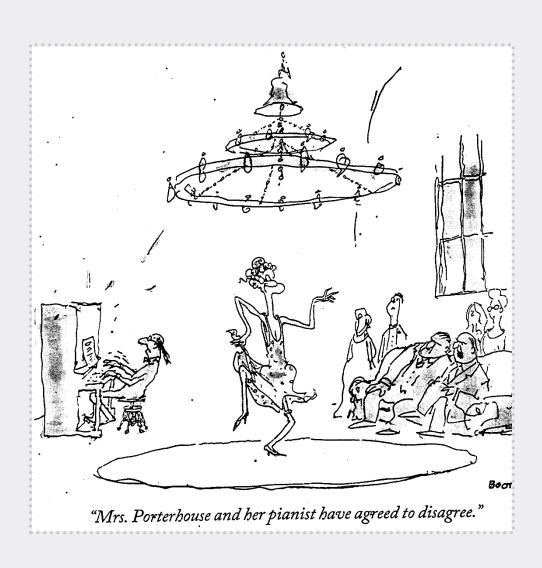
"Singing under one umbrella"



- Communicating non verbally
- Matching vowel color & articulation
- Breathing together & breathing to lead



# Rehearsals & Coaching: The Reality



## Working Together is the Key

- Secure in your part, but not isolated from your partners.
- Balance and staying together becomes a shared responsibility.

# Vocal Chamber Music for Adult Singers



# Adult Singers Are

 Old enough to know the rules, and still young enough vocally to want to play the game



#### **Main Goals**

- To delve into the repertoire
- To experience chamber ensemble singing
- To perform in public

#### Course Design

- A course meeting twice/week for four weeks
- Classical Repertoire for voice & piano
- Focus on good ensemble & interpretation
- Public concert after the last class

# Repertoire & Rehearsals



#### Clear Structure

# Before the first class each singer receives:

- A list of all the repertoire
- Contact information for everyone in the course

Composer/Arranger	Sang/Performers	6/25	6/27	6/30	7/2
Composer/Arranger	Joney Ferrormers	0/2)	0/2/	6/ )0	///
Baska:	Thinking of how he loved me:	X			X
	S1/ Win S2 /Harriet A/ Clia				
Beach:	Come unto these Yellow Sands:			X	X
	S 1/Fabienne S 2/Jane				
	A 1/Clia A 2/Polly				
Haydn:	Betrachtung des Todes :	X			X
	S /Harriet T/Paul Bar./Richard				
Hensel:	Wiederkehrt ein Lichter Maie			X	X
	S/Fabienne A/Polly				
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- Copies of their own ensemble pieces
- A rehearsal schedule for first two weeks

#### Weeks One & Two

- Read through all the repertoire
- Coaching to facilitate further rehearsals and practice
- Translations of all non English texts
- Choose pieces for performance

## Final Two Weeks: A Challenging Time

- A new rehearsal schedule for the last two weeks
- In class: intense and concentrated ensemble coaching
- And rehearsing piece for performance





#### **Taking Initiative**

#### **Outside Class:**

- Ensemble singers arrange extra rehearsals with the accompanist
- Ensembles practice together more frequently on their own
- It's concentrated, risky and fun!





# July 2nd Concert

#### Vocal Chamber Music

for Voices & Piano by

Baska, Beach, Haydn, Lang, Lehmann, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Quilter, Schubert & Vaughan Williams

Performed by

David Barlow \* Harriet Bridges \*Jane Fisher Carlson
Edward Crowley \* Clia Goodwin \* Winifred Hentschel
\* Mary Lewis \* Paul Lewis \* Polly Scannell
Fabienne Schmit \* Richard Scott \* Evelyn Spalding

Caroline Harvey, piano

#### **Experienced Adult Singers**

- Musically attuned
- Challenged by solo ensemble singing
- Generally responsible & resilient
- Looking for musical companionship

#### **Vocal Chamber Music Offers**

- Fresh repertoire
- Interesting musical & social challenges
- Both ensemble training and solo experience
- Musical collaboration as equals

 Vocal chamber music has the power to extend and enrich the singing life of singers.



 What role could vocal chamber music play in your musical life?