

# Portland Jazz Singers Workshops

## Inside this issue:

Lose weight while singing—personal training is the key	2
Who is Daniel Crothers?	3
“Name in Lights”—Tara Williamson	2
New Second Edition Workbook available	4
A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words	3
2009 Master class Workshops	4
Vocal Exercise CD burst on the Scene	3

## Special points of interest:

- Tara Williamson Flies to NY to audition for Cirque de Soleil
- Professional performance/practice CDs available
- Workshop Videotaping boost learning
- Keep your voice in top condition
- Ways to get your EDGE on!
- PCC mid-week workshops
- Portland Teen Idol consulting

## Three Times Better. . . a letter from the president

The holiday season is upon us and the New Year is just around the corner. I am very excited about this coming year for a whole slew of reasons. It has long been my dream to create a school dedicated solely to advancing the skills & professionalism of the vocalist. Two thousand nine marks the beginning of my third year at Pacific Crest Community School and my third quarter at Portland Community College, Sylvania Campus, and with that my dream is truly bearing fruit.

Over the past two years nearly 150 students have attended my workshops and have benefited from both the group and one-on-one teaching format. Yet, to advance every student's skills more fully, I am introducing new learning materials and techniques, master classes and performance/recital opportunities.

To augment the workshop learning environment, videotaping of each student performance has been incorporated as a tool for more intense learning. There's nothing quite like watching, from an objective point of view, your habits or mannerisms that impede or enrich your presentation.

The *Second Edition Workbook* will be available on January 4<sup>th</sup>

(the first Sunday workshop of 2009) for \$25. The workbook has been edited for greater clarity and understanding and many new and valuable sections have been added as well. To augment the workbook and your vocal improvement a *Daily Vocal Exercise CD* has been created for the students for \$10 each. I continue to offer private vocal instruction at \$40 an hour for students who have vocal issues or who need more one-on-one time. Additionally, the two-hour Sunday workshop rate will increase to \$40 per student for the drop-in class. However, discounts are available if you sign up for one of three new group packages – 6 weeks, 8 weeks or 10 weeks.

I am also proud to announce the addition of Daniel Crothers to the team. Daniel is a classically trained pianist and qualified accompanist with many years of experience working with singers and performers in multiple music genres. Daniel is also the brainchild behind videotaping and will offer performance DVDs and practice/performance CDs of your songs at very reasonable rates.



As always, my philosophy of providing a fun, supportive and no-fail environment continues to be the cornerstone of my teaching approach. I hope you will join us this year, take that step, make that commitment to improving your singing and performing skills for greater personal enjoyment and professionalism.

Call 503-866-9492 or 503-231-8348 or email me at [mitzizilka@comcast.net](mailto:mitzizilka@comcast.net)

*Mitzi Zilka*

## Tara Williamson Auditions in New York

I have been working with Mitzi since September of this year. I came to her with the goal of getting into Cirque du Soleil as a vocalist and making music a priority in my busy life. I've had a long history with music, but I needed a mentor and coach to help me reach these goals. Within a couple months, Mitzi helped me apply to Cirque, develop a deeper repertoire of jazz songs through workshops and private lessons, write a hard hitting bio, record a demo CD and record a performance DVD.

### Lose Weight While Singing

Okay, you got me! You can't lose weight by taking private vocal lessons but weight loss headlines always makes me want to buy those fashion magazines at the grocery store and the claims they make are just as plausible as mine.

What you will get is personal attention, more profound improvements on problem areas and professional career coaching. I charge \$40 an hour which is \$10 below the going

In early December, I was invited to audition for Cirque du Soleil in New York City! Mitzi helped me to pick songs that would best show my abilities and the requirements for the audition. She connected me with musicians in the Portland music community. When I got to NYC, after short notice for the audition, I was as ready as I could be.

The audition itself was a great experience and I got a taste for what it's like to be out there in the "real world". Although ultimately Cirque

du Soleil was looking for someone with stronger acting skills rather than singing skills. Nevertheless, it was truly eye opening and I am so grateful for the opportunity. Working with Mitzi has helped me reach a fuller potential, not only for the audition, but for my future in music. I look forward to working with her more and I'm keeping my eyes open for my next opportunity!

*Tara Williamson*

rate. So call me and we'll talk about your vocal needs and aspirations and if you want I'll share a bit of my struggle with weight loss. 503-231-8348 or 503-866-9492

*The audition itself was a great experience and I got a taste for what it's like to be out there in the "real world".*

### PCC Mid-Week Workshops

Beginning the week of January 5<sup>th</sup> I will be teaching two mid-week workshops at Portland Community College, Sylvania Campus. The beginner's class is offered on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 for 10 weeks, class no. 17408. The Advanced class is offered on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 (students who have taken the beginning

workshop or who have adequate performance experience) for ten weeks, class no. 17409. PCC has priced the workshop series at \$199 for the 10 weeks which works out to be less than \$20 per class. If you are interested in joining me during the week go on-line to [www.pcc.edu](http://www.pcc.edu) and sign-up under Take

Classes for Fun/ Community Education for the **Beginners or Advanced Jazz Singers Workshop located on page 19 under the performing Arts section.**

## WHO IS DANIEL CROTHERS?

Daniel is a classically trained pianist and qualified accompanist with many years of experience working with singers and performers in multiple music genres. Regarded as a prodigy in his youth, Daniel was a member of the Oregon Junior Symphony. While living in Prague, he was invited to play for the renowned Russian Ballet and performed as their solo accompanist. Daniel is also the brainchild behind workshop video-taping. Dan lives in Lake Oswego with his two musical teenage children Melanie 13, and Michael 15.

"First let me say how pleased I am to

be working with Mitzi and the PJS students. I have long been a media-freak and upon joining the Portland Jazz Singers organization, I was keen to introduce media tools to the students. "

"I consider performance DVDs as the most effective way to market yourself in today's media savvy climate. Show the club owner and/or theatre presenter what you can do with live footage and you'll get the gig. Plus, I can design the DVD to your specifications and style.

The professional quality CDs I create

are recorded in your key and with your arrangement typically with piano, bass and drums instrumentation. They can be used to practice or perform with.

I charge an hourly fee of \$30 to create the CDs & DVDs (a series of ten songs takes about 3 hours). To create the DVDs (of around 3 minutes takes about 5 hours after filming). However, I am willing to negotiate a flat fee to make it affordable for more students. Contact me at 503-699-5196 or danielcrothers24@msn.com.

*Daniel Crothers*

## New Daily Vocal Exercise CD Burst on Scene!

Workshop student and winner of the Portland Teen Idol 2008, Jeff Cameron Quigley states, "Ever since I began warming up every day I find it easier to sing, my sound is clearer & I am more in tune. " A daily regiment of vocal exercises will among other things:

- expand your vocal range
- enhance vocal agility
- reduce vocal problems
- improve your tonal quality

My new Daily Vocal Exercise CD of exercises offers four primary sections. The first set of exercises consists of

light warm-ups designed for the beginner or for when you don't feel vocally up to a strenuous work-out. The second set consists of more advanced exercises for the experienced student who is seeking a rigorous vocal work-out. The third set of exercises work on improving your breath control, essential for professional vocalists. The fourth set concentrates on ear training. These exercises consist of the major, three minor, the blues and

chromatic scales.

All of the exercises are on their own track so you can replay them over and over to attain perfection or to practice them with different vowels for a maximum effectiveness.

*"Ever since I began warming up every day I find it easier to sing, my sound is clearer & I am more in tune. "*

*Jeff Cameron Quigley*

## 2009 Session Schedule and Recital Opportunities

Recitals for friends & family will be held at Pacific Crest Community School at the end of each 10 week session:

<i>Start</i>	<i>Conclusion</i>
1. January 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>March 8<sup>th</sup></b>
2. March 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>May 24<sup>th</sup></b>
Easter 4/12 no workshop	

3. June 7<sup>th</sup> **August 2<sup>nd</sup>**
4. August 9<sup>th</sup> **October 18<sup>th</sup>**
5. October 25<sup>th</sup> **December 13<sup>th</sup>** – eight week session only

Also, regular and qualified students may be personally invited to perform at Tony Starlight's at the the-

matic monthly Portland Jazz Singers Showcase.

Lastly, unscheduled performance opportunities often come up through out the year and will be offered to regular and qualified students.

Dedicated to  
advancing the skills &  
professionalism of  
vocalists.

Phone: 503-231-8348 or  
503-866-9492

Email: mitzizilka@comcast.net

Get your edge on with  
master classes on acting  
and storytelling coming in  
2009

## Save Dollars

### Discount Group Packages

By signing up for a Sunday Workshop group package you'll save \$\$\$:

*Six week session 10% Discount-*  
\$36 per class for a total of \$216 –  
workbook discounted to \$15.

*Eight week session 15%  
Discount-* \$34 per class for a total of  
\$272 – workbook discounted to \$15

*Ten week session 20% Discount-*  
\$32 per class for a total of \$320 –  
workbook discounted to \$15.

Drop-in classes \$40

These workshops are taught **Every Sunday**  
from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Pacific Crest  
Community School located at 116 N.E. 29<sup>th</sup>  
one block North of East Burnside at 29<sup>th</sup> &  
Davis.

## Second Edition Workshop WORKBOOK

The *Workshop Workbook* has been revised and is now available. Within the workbook, I share the lessons I've learned the hard way and the secrets few will tell you about singing professionally. The first workbook included chapters on Proper Microphone Usage, Overcoming Stage Fright, Counting In and Developing Effective Outros as well as twelve other chapters targeted to helping the vocalist improve their vocal and performance skills.

The second edition includes new chapters on Vocal Do's & Don'ts, Music Jargon, Universal Hand signals, Listening Sessions, Developing Effective Intros, Adding Vocal Color

& Texture.

The second edition workbook is available for \$25 to the Sunday drop-in students and the PCC students. Students who purchase one of the three Sunday Workshop group packages can purchase the book for \$15.



## Portland Teen Idol Contest 2009

I am pleased to announce that I have been retained to work with Portland Parks & Recreation, sponsor of the Portland Teen Idol Contest, as their Vocal and Performance coach for all the candidates that make it into the finals. I will be assisting the contestants with improving their bandstand skills, vocal performance, song and key selection. If you are interested in participating in the contest you can go to the Portland Parks & Recreation web site [www.portlandonline.com](http://www.portlandonline.com) and get the application information.