

## VOICE PROGRAM

### What you can expect from us.

We treat the voice with great care. It is important to us that singers learn to use their voices in a healthy way that will allow their instruments to develop naturally. We do this by teaching age-appropriate repertoire and technique. Our goals are to develop technical knowledge of how the voice works and how to use it; develop musicianship and train students to become confident and expressive performers.

All incoming students will have an initial conference with the Voice Teacher. This is not an audition but an opportunity for the student and voice teacher to meet and determine the student's level of voice training.

### What we expect from you.

The Voice Faculty is committed to the success of our students and we ask for a commitment from them in return. Singers are expected to practice a minimum of four days a week. In addition singers are expected to enroll and demonstrate progress in appropriate workshops and musicianship classes from the core curriculum.

### Performance opportunities.

Students will give in-class performances. More advanced students with solos and students who have ensemble numbers may be invited to perform in the Performance Class or the formal recitals.

### The Private Voice Program

consists of a private lesson of either 45 minutes for advanced students or 30 minutes for beginner students. The Private Voice Program is structured to work with each individual student to meet that singer's needs. The Program is structured to reflect our commitment to developing strong singers and performers. Students will receive 28 lessons during the year. During each lesson, the student will work on exercises to improve technical skills and learn repertoire which is appropriate for that student's ability. Repertoire will cover classical as well as musical theater literature. All students are expected to learn and memorize songs in English and foreign languages with the goal to perform them in a yearly recital.

### Vocal Performance Workshop

The Vocal Performance Workshop (VPW) provides an opportunity for students to gain performing experience both as soloist and ensemble singers. Repertoire will focus on classical vocal literature both solo and ensemble, musical theater and operetta. Each singer will rehearse ensemble music each week to prepare for a yearly recital.

Students will receive vocal and ensemble coaching and study basic acting techniques and stage deportment. Singers must be able to sing in tune, one on a part, and be prepared to perform for one another in class.

The course is open by audition or permission of instructor to students not studying privately at CMC, but enrollment preference will be given to those students enrolled in our voice program.



### City Music Center of Duquesne University

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### Elementary Chorus (Grades 2-6; must be able to read words)

The new Elementary Chorus is open to students in grades 2-6 (who are able to read words). The ensemble will focus on the fundamental elements of music, including recognition of pitch and basic musical symbols, exploration of the differences between speaking and singing voices, vocal placement, posture, breath control, diction and embouchure.

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### **CMC Chorale (Grades 7-12)**

Duquesne University's City Music Center understands the need for ensemble practice and performance in the musical development of the young artist. The CMC Chorale is designed to accommodate the growth of music students by teaching the following: Students will rehearse and memorize vocal selections in three- to four-part harmony for performance purposes. They will be instructed in methods of proper and healthy vocal technique, exercises and warm-ups geared toward building listening skills and development of good rehearsal habits. Additionally, students will engage in studies of vocal/music reading skills intended to reinforce lesson-based musical knowledge regardless of instrument background. Music will be selected each year based on the vocal distribution of that year's enrollment. Students will be introduced to methods of vocal diction, vowel and consonant matching, and proper articulation of text in English and foreign languages in an ensemble setting. The CMC Chorale will effectively prepare students for successful participation in vocal ensemble membership in a high school setting and into post-graduate studies.

### **FACULTY**

#### **Bridget Foley Steele-Chair**

Bridget is from the Pittsburgh area and graduated from Gateway High School in Monroeville. She received a Bachelors in Music and a Bachelors in Speech Communication from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and her Masters in Voice Performance from Bowling Green State University of Ohio. She continued to study Opera Performance in Florence, Italy where she studied with world-renowned tenor Franco Corelli. Some of her operatic roles include Mrs. Charlston, Dead Man Walking, with Pittsburgh Opera; Violetta, La Traviata; Donna Anna, Don Giovanni; Masetta, La Boheme; Fiordiligi, Cosi Fan Tutte; Adele, Die Fledermaus; Miss Wordsworth, Albert Herring. Some of her music theater roles include Desire, A Little Night Music; Julie Jordan, Carousel; Fiona, Brigadoon; Leah, Two by Two; Reno Sweeney and Hope Harcourt, Anything Goes.

She has sung the National Anthem for the Pittsburgh Steelers and many concerts in the surrounding area. She previously was Voice Professor at Slippery Rock University and Edinboro University and the Aural Skills Professor at Mercyhurst College and is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Bridget has sung Pittsburgh Opera's Summer Series Concerts and currently sings with Pittsburgh Opera's Education Outreach program and the Pittsburgh Opera Chorus.

#### **Liliana Piazza—Mezzo Soprano**

Praised for her "warm tone" and "great conviction" as an actress, Canadian mezzo-soprano Liliana Piazza has recently relocated to Pittsburgh and is thrilled to start teaching in the community. A recent graduate from McGill University's Masters of Music program in vocal performance, Liliana has a great understanding of the singing voice and is well versed in both classical and music theater styles. An avid performer and teacher, she approaches singing not only as a fun and rewarding way to express oneself musically, but also believes in the joyful and healing properties of the human voice. Liliana has performed in many operas and musicals in Canada and the US including, "Hello Dolly!," "The Rape of Lucretia," "The Mikado," and "Suor Angelica" to name a few.

#### **Jason Steele-Baritone**

BAMU, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Baritone Jason Steele has sung numerous roles across both operatic and musical theatre platforms with Pittsburgh Opera, DeAngelo Opera, Greensburg American Opera, The Academy Theatre, and New Kensington Civic Theatre: they include Don Giovanni *Don Giovanni*, Ein Perukenmacher *Ariadne auf Naxos*, The Jailor *Tosca*, Arthur Jones *Billy Budd*, Nathan Detroit *Guys and Dolls*, Billy Bigelow *Carousel*, and Captain Von Trapp *The Sound of Music*. Mr. Steele's film/television credits include work with Five Cent Productions, and several television commercials through Ryno Productions, Blackbox Studios, and Mogul Mind. Mr. Steele has taught chorus, band and general classroom music for 15 years.