

**The Vancouver International Song Institute
Pedagogy of Art Song Retreat:
“Teaching Art Song from the Inside Out”
June 11 – 15, 2010 at UBC, Vancouver, Canada**

*Five days of extraordinary immersion in Art Song Pedagogy –
Classes, Concerts, Conversations*

FRIDAY, JUNE 11 UBC SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**9:45 PROFESSOR SCOTT MCCOY, WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE,
PRESSER VOICE LABORATORY, PRESIDENT OF NATS
“Practical Application of Voice Analysis”**

We are honoured to welcome Professor McCoy back to VISI for a week’s worth of his wealth of knowledge! This session explores ways real-time acoustic analysis can be used as feedback to enhance singing instruction. Analytical tools will also be discussed that have practical application in the casting of singers for roles in opera and oratorio, or for producing optimal sound in ensemble work.

**11:00 PROFESSOR KEVIN MCNEILLY, UBC DEPT OF ENGLISH
“Approaches to Poetry from Samuel Barber’s Songs”**

Dr. McNeilly is a regular speaker at VISI sessions, bringing clarity and insight to the English-language poetry of the art song repertoire with his friendly and accessible manner. This session focuses on poetry drawn from Barber’s collection of beloved songs.

12:00–1:30 LUNCH

**1:30–3:00 JULIE SIMSON, CAMERON STOWE, KENNETH GRIFFITHS,
BENJAMIN BUTTERFIELD, ARLENE SHRUT, SCOTT MCCOY, AND
OTHERS
Small masterclass options**

VISI concurrent masterclasses take place throughout the School of Music every afternoon. The groups are small and intimate. You are welcome to visit as many as you wish during the 90 minute sessions.

3:00–3:30 BREAK

3:30-4:15 PROFESSOR DARRYL EDWARDS, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
“New Research in Performance Practice”

Dr. Edwards, well-known as Professor of Voice at U of T and Artistic Director of COSI, the opera institute in Italy, is visiting VISI as a representative of the **AIRS project** – “**Advancing Interdisciplinary Research in Singing**” – in which he is a Co-Investigator along with others attending the Retreat including Professors Frank Russo and Rena Sharon. AIRS is A Major Collaborative Research Initiative awarded to Dr. Annabel Cohen of UPEI in Jan 2009 by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada comprising a network of over 75 researchers internationally. VISI is proud to be one of the nexus points for its research activities and meetings over the next 6 years. AIRS initiatives in the realm of song span the planet. Dr. Edwards recently attended the International Conference on Performance Science in Sydney, Australia, and will speak about fascinating new studies relating to performance practice.

4:15–5:30 FORUM lead by PAULA WISE, ROBYN DRIEDGER-KLASSEN:
“Performance Anxiety – Sources and Solutions”

The trauma of Performance Anxiety is a common source of despair for performers, and an anguishing challenge for mentors who watch their careful preparations derailed by its devastating effects. We all seek tools to guide our students to manageable states of concentration and self-confidence. This session explores some sources of PA and some insightful tools and strategies to liberate students from its encumbrances.

Paula Wise is a professional violinist in Vancouver and a practising psychotherapist who specializes in musician’s performance anxiety issues. Her past sessions at VISI’s pedagogy and performance programs have been highly prized and praised for her warm and heartfelt engagement of challenging issues and her kind and helpful solutions for young artists.

Robyn Driedger-Klassen is a member of the VISI Voice faculty, and a renowned performer of opera and song. Her journey from profound performance anxiety to a comfortable mindset has brought her to an intimate and warm connection with her audiences. She is sought as a performance coach by many young artists, and shares her intense story.

8:00 CONCERT AT THE VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
DR. BENJAMIN BINDER, DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY; VISI FACULTY
ARTISTS
“Music and Ideas: The Romantic Self - Schumann and his Legacy”

Dr. Binder is a musicology professor and a collaborative pianist. His fascinating commentary about Romantic Lieder is both insightful and delightful. He is joined by a cohort of great VISI recitalists in a program spanning the 19th century’s magnificent German repertoire.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

UBC FREDERICK WOOD THEATRE

10:00–12:00 **BARBARA HEYMAN, BIOGRAPHER OF SAMUEL BARBER**
“In Celebration: The Life and Times of Samuel Barber”

On the occasion of Samuel Barber’s 100th Birthday, we are honoured to present the author of the pre-eminent biography of the great American Art Song composer. She joins us at VISI for a lecture/conversation that will bring Barber’s spirit into our midst. Bring your questions!

12:00–1:30 **LUNCH**

1:30–3:00 **ALISON D’AMATO WITH BARBARA HEYMAN**
MASTERCLASS ON THE SONGS OF BARBER

OTHER CONCURRENT MASTERCLASSES OR WORKSHOPS
AT THE [SCHOOL OF MUSIC](#): GRIFFITHS, MCCOY, SHAY, SHRUT, AND OTHERS

3:00–3:30 **BREAK**

3:30–5:30 **[UBC SCHOOL OF MUSIC](#) [GESSLER HALL](#)**
FORUM AND DISCUSSION: “*ACCESSING DEPTH; TEACHING WITH EMPATHY*”.

The daunting questions of artistic, ethical, and psychic boundaries in one-to one pedagogic practice are concerns often discussed privately over coffee with one’s close colleagues, but rarely shared in open forum. The education of an artist comprises far more than technical craft and traditions - the forming of the artistic presence that can fill a concert hall requires training along extraordinary lines of internal self-development and challenge. Too often we find the boundary between music-teaching and psycho-therapy becomes blurred, and we become conscious that our mentoring has moved beyond our skill-set of expertise. Teachers face a common dilemma in finding practices that maintain safe boundaries while guiding performers who can undertake competitive concert careers with profound artistry, confidence, and self-knowledge.

This forum will blend presentations and moderated discussion, joining artists with experts in Educational Psychology and Psychotherapy; all participants are invited to share stories and conundrums from our practice and our own experience as students in an exploration of skills, new practices, and ethical considerations.

8:00 **[CONCERT at FREDERICK WOOD THEATRE, UBC](#)**
“In Celebration: The Songs of Samuel Barber”

Honouring the 100th Birthday of Samuel Barber, VISI faculty artists perform works by one of the greatest Art Song composers. Hear his bucolic Knoxville: Summer of 1915 and the mystical Hermit Songs, alongside some of unpublished early songs and others from his beloved repertoire.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 13 REGENT COLLEGE

“SONG - FROM THE HEART OF THE HUMAN, TO THE HEART OF HEALING: TRAINING THE 21ST CENTURY ARTIST FOR DIVERSITY AND SERVICE BEYOND THE CONCERT STAGE”

**2:00–3:00 SUSAN SUMMERS AND ESTHER THANE, CAPILANO COLLEGE, MUSIC
THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF BC**
*“Song as a bridge across gulfs of expression from autism to
Alzheimer’s.”*

VISI welcomes Susan Summers and Esther Thane to their 4th season at VISI. This session includes powerful and moving video demonstrations of the effectiveness of song in therapeutic environments. The evident outcomes of contact, connection, and joy speak to new career directions for young artists in the expanding realm of music therapy.

3:00–3:45 PROFESSOR HAROLD WIENS, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
“Voice Training as a Healing Power”

Professor Wiens, joins us from the Voice faculty of University of Alberta, one of Canada’s leading academic centres for dynamic interaction between the Arts and Medicine. He will provide video demonstrations of studies that explored the therapeutic effects of voice training on stress reduction, and the effects of voice training on the symptoms of Parkinson’s Disease.

3:45–4:15 BREAK

**4:15–5:30 PROFESSORS FRANK RUSSO AND DEBORAH FELS, RYERSON
UNIVERSITY**
**Interactive demonstration: “Hearing Music through Non-auditory
Sensing”**

Experience the Emoti-chair, a new technology designed to provide greater access to music for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Learn about how trained musicians work with members of the deaf community to explore methods of performance that optimize audience engagement. To do this, performers have to rely more heavily on visual aspects of performance and on vocal technique that is sensitive to vibration. The learning process for performers involves an experience of artificial deafness for themselves and focus groups composed of individual performers and small groups of deaf listeners. The experience for hearing listeners is best described as immersive.

The emoti-chair can be thought of as a simple variation on speaker listening. In speaker listening -- a long-standing practice in Deaf culture that was famously practiced by the late-deafened Beethoven - an individual places their hand on the instrument body or speaker in order to experience music through touch. The skin contains mechanoreceptors that are sensitive to a wide range of frequencies that overlap with the range of pitches utilized in music. What the emoti-
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chair does is to direct different regions of vibration to different parts of the back. When this vibrotactile stimulation is accompanied by visual information from a vocal performance, deaf listeners experience an enhanced structural and emotional understanding of music.

8:00 **CONCERT: WEST VANCOUVER UNITED CHURCH**
2062 ESQUIMALT AVENUE, WEST VANCOUVER
“BIG BC Birthdays with a Touch of Barber”

Celebrate some major “Zero-birthdays” of Vancouver’s prominent choral composers! Featuring a world premiere by Lloyd Burritt, songs by Stephen Chatman, Ramona Luengen, and others. The VISI faculty artists are joined by the beautiful sounds of the Phoenix Choir and the Lyric Singers. Samuel Barber’s 100th B-day is also included in the party. Help us fete the composers, blow out the candles, and share some B-day cake!

MONDAY JUNE 14 MORNING: UBC SCHOOL OF MUSIC

9:30–10:30 **PROFESSOR SCOTT MCCOY, WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE,**
PRESSER VOICE LABORATORY, PRESIDENT OF NATS
“Teaching Male Singers”

This session deals with the special issues related to development of male voice with special emphasis on tessitura, breathing and breath management, and registration.

10:30 – **PROFESSOR SIMA GODFREY, UBC DEPT OF FRENCH**
12:00 ***“Approaches to French Surrealist Poetry”***

Dr. Godfrey’s annual classes at VISI are electrifying experiences for interpreters of Art Song. Her passion for poetry is mixed with a rich sense of cultural history and philosophy for a high-intensity but highly accessible tour through some of the great classics. This session will offer some introductory tools and information about the era and its art.

12:00–1:30 **LUNCH**

12:15 **CONCERT at the Dodson Room, Irving K Barber Learning Centre**
VISI Emerging Artists in Performance

PLEASE NOTE VENUE CHANGE FOR AFTERNOON SESSIONS

MONDAY JUNE 14 AFTERNOON: REGENT COLLEGE

DICTION, RECITATION, PLAYING THE WORDS – THE ROYAL ROAD TO SONG COMPREHENSION!

**1:30 –3:00 FRANÇOIS LE ROUX, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE DE LA MÉLODIE
FRANÇAISE**
“Speaking the Text of French Mélodie”

We welcome Mr. Le Roux back to VISI following his stunning course and recital at VISI 2008. His encompassing knowledge of French art song begins with his profound connection to its poetry and history, illuminated with his special blend of charm and humour. This session/masterclass is a rare opportunity to focus on the recitation of the text prior to the engagement of the music.

3:00–3:30 BREAK

3:30-5:00 TWO LOEWENS, TWO DICTION EXPERTS, TWO VIEWS

LAURA LOEWEN, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA DESAUTELS FACULTY OF MUSIC
“Playing the Words, and Passionate Diction”

Pianists should play words, sentences, language while playing art songs, and singers should explore the textural palette of syllables from an emotional context. This level of specificity of language gives us the poetic and musical tools necessary to really engage with the poem and musical language of the song.

CHE ANNE LOEWEN, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCHOOL OF MUSIC
“Are We Too Diction-Conscious?”

Have we grown too "diction-conscious" in the past few decades? Are we running the risk of separating the diction (speech sounds) from language and literature? Conversely and maybe even a bit paradoxically we have become preoccupied with what texts are "about", thereby risking sacrificing the fundamental musical (i.e. extra-linguistic) meaning. U of T's diction expert offers a "contrarian" viewpoint to the spectrum for your consideration.

7:30 DINNER AND IDEAS

Join us for dinner and a lively conversation at the home of Rena Sharon, VISI's Artistic Director. Pianist Alison d'Amato, Artistic Director of the Florestan Recital Project and faculty member at the University at Buffalo, heads a humorous and provocative discussion about appropriate song repertoire choices for young singers.

Dinner is included for 5-day registrants and is \$35 for daily registrants.

PRE-REGISTRATION or CONFIRMATION REQUIRED BY JUNE 12 AT RETREAT.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15 UBC SCHOOL OF MUSIC GESSLER HALL

**ROMANTIC GERMAN LEGACY MEETS FRENCH SURREALISM –
MINDS ARE AT RISK!**

10:00- 11:00 PROFESSOR DEBORAH STEIN, NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY
“Memories and Dream States: How Music Captures the Poetic Soul”

Dr. Stein is an eminent theorist who has co-authored one of the great books about Art Song interpretation for performers, “From Poetry to Song”. She is joining us at VISI for the first time as part of the Musicology Mentorship program. In this session she will talk about some well-loved lieder, including two songs from Schumann’s “Dichterliebe” that will be performed in the evening.

11:00 – 12:00 FRANÇOIS LE ROUX, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE DE LA MÉLODIE
FRANÇAISE
“Surrealism in the world of music: repulsion/attraction?”

If surrealist painters are easy to recognise (Magritte, Max Ernst...) it is not so for musicians and composers. Why? We'll try to answer to this, and consider some prominent names who could be linked to this "école".

12:00–1:30 LUNCH

1:30 –3:00 OPEN CLASSES: LE ROUX, SHAY, SHRUT, STOWE, AND OTHERS

3:00–3:30 BREAK

**3:30–5:30 MADAME ROSEMARIE LANDRY, UNIVERSITE DE MONTREAL ECOLE
DE MUSIQUE**
French Mélodie Masterclass

VISI is honoured by the return of Mme. Landry, whose encompassing expertise in French repertoire is matched by her elegant style and warm pedagogical manner. The repertoire for this class will span the 19th and early 20th century.

8:00 CONCERT: REGENT COLLEGE
SCOTT MCCOY, MARTHA GUTH, AND KENNETH GRIFFITHS

Join us for this extraordinary evening of ideas and performance about the Dichterliebe and its 4 additional songs, as well as the last song cycle of Schumann – The Songs of Mary Stuart. This is a rare collaboration among wonderful artists.

PEDAGOGY RETREAT FEE SCHEDULE:

The early-bird online registration fee until May 15th is \$200 for the full five-day program, including concerts and June 14th dinner. Fee is \$250 from May 16 through June 11th.

Daily drop-in tickets can be purchased at the door at any time: \$10 for morning classes, \$20 for afternoon classes, concerts \$20, June 14th dinner \$35 (Please register for dinner by June 12 at VISI).

[REGISTER NOW→](#)

PRE- DURING AND POST-RETREAT:

We welcome you to attend VISI any time from June 7-21 for lectures, classes, and workshops in diverse topics. Dr. Binder will lecture on German Romanticism, Dr. Godfrey will offer a class in Verlaine, Dr. McNeilly will talk about English poetry, Dr. David Gordon Duke will offer a lecture about Barber's Knoxville, Professors Gayle Shay and David Walsh will work in Art Song Theatre stagings, Dr. Shrut will work on Performance Presentation and Career Preparation, classes for Collaborative Pianists will focus on the special demands of the profession, and our wonderful faculty will offer a plenitude of masterclasses. Please look for our detailed schedule of events online in May.

Please note – due to the many logistical variables we reserve the right to alter this schedule at any time if necessary.

ADDITIONAL SYMPOSIA/WORKSHOPS OUTSIDE OF THE PEDAGOGY RETREAT SCHEDULE INCLUDE:

- June 5: The Music Therapy Association of BC presents a one-day symposium on Music Therapy for Kids: 10 Big Ideas for Little People
- June 8 /16: Vocal Improvisation with Viviane Houle
- June TBD: World Harmony Singing with Karla Mundy
- June 10-13: Samuel Barber: Art Song Goes Choral. A weekend choral workshop on the songs of Samuel Barber led by Kevin Zakresky

[More information](#) for Symposia/Workshops. Some additional fees may apply.