



A Spectrum of Voices: Prominent American Voice Teachers Discuss the Teaching of Singing

By Elizabeth Blades-Zeller

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Now in Paperback! Teaching voice and vocal performance is by nature a subjective pursuit. This is the first book in the field of vocal pedagogy that draws on the brilliance and combined experience represented by an elite group of exemplary voice teachers. This research study and resulting book does not promote one teacher's perspective, nor does it promote one particular approach, but instead distills the best from the best, presenting nearly 30 quoted interviews from teachers of note. 'How do the nation's most outstanding voice teachers teach?' The end result is the first book of its kind, based on solid qualitative research design and methodology, written in a lively, understandable and user-friendly way that provides a fascinating survey of comparative pedagogy. Each chapter is arranged in a question and answer format, presenting the question first, then listing the response of each vocal instructor interviewed. Voice teachers offer valuable insight into their teaching philosophies, the kinds of auxiliary training they recommend to their students, and how they structure their lessons. Astute quotes and strategies about posture, breathing, tonal resonance, diction, registration and tension are based on years of professional teaching. A glossary containing definitions, voice performance and pedagogy terminology, and idioms characteristic of the profession is also included. A quick and handy reference for the studio teacher, this book would also serve as a text for vocal pedagogy courses or a supplement for physiology and vocal mechanics. For teachers and students of singing, music educators, musical theatre performers and anyone who aspires to be an outstanding teacher.

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Editorial Review

Review

Useful for voice teachers, students, performers, and music educators. (*Book News, Inc.*)

The informal responses to 14 questions will have considerable value for many in the profession, making this book an excellent starting place for the study of comparative American vocal pedagogies....Teachers will glean useful ideas, and all readers will be grateful for documentation of the points of view of otherwise unpublished teachers who died after the interviews took place. Recommended. (*CHOICE*)

The book would be enjoyed by teachers of classical singing, students of classical singing, teachers and students of vocal pedagogy, and professional singers and coaches who are interested in gleaning insight into how their respected colleagues deal with given issues?technical, psychological, or spiritual...a resource to peruse a little at a time for the special information, insight and inspiration to be found throughout. (*American Music Teacher*)

A Spectrum of Voices provides an invaluable tool for comparative pedagogical study. Voice teachers will find it eminently practical, whether as a textbook for pedagogy classes, a source of teaching ideas, or simply as interesting reading. (*Nats Journal Of Singing*)

Ideal for college or university teachers of vocal pedagogy, this book is a must-have reference book for all vocal studio teachers. Elizabeth Blades-Zeller expertly weaves advice from a group of elite voice teachers into a concise reference book. *A Spectrum of Voices* provides the novice or proficient teacher a milieu for understanding and reinforcing each concept. (*Music Educators Journal*)

Author Blades-Zeller has assembled an important body of pedagogic information. The questions devised are pertinent to all who sing and teach. Quoted interviews from teachers of note provide a fascinating survey of comparative pedagogy. A fine contribution to the literature. (Richard Miller, Professor of Singing *Oberlin College*)

About the Author

Elizabeth Blades-Zeller is Associate Professor of Voice, Opera and Music Education, Coordinator of Voice Area, and Director of Opera at Heidelberg College. She is also a Music Editor for Mountain View Video Production, Roanoke, VA.

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