

SINGERS FORUM

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FOUNDED IN 1978

MISSION

SINGERS FORUM is committed to providing the highest quality vocal training for all students interested in furthering and developing their talents.

We practice the philosophy of personal achievement and artistic development through vocal training, performance and community service. With a strong emphasis on vocal technique and speech, combined with numerous performance opportunities in a safe and supportive environment, SINGERS FORUM strives to offer each student a full curriculum for both professional and personal growth.

LEADERSHIP

Andy Anselmo, Founding Director

Don Rebic, Artistic Director

ANNUAL BUDGET

\$800,000

POPULATION SERVED

SINGERS FORUM is available to anyone interested in developing his or her vocal talents. By maintaining affordable tuition, as well as a generous scholarship program, SINGERS FORUM continually strives to keep its programs available to everyone. Through our Outreach, In-School, and Youth Outreach Programs, SINGERS FORUM reaches a diverse and underserved population ranging from seniors to at-risk youth.

SINGERS FORUM has increasingly reached a national population through our programs and master classes at *Fordham University*; the *Community Music School* in Buffalo, New York, *New York University* and *Long Island University*; and an international population through our joint programs with the *Recontres Internationales de la Chanson Francophone* in Montreal, Canada, and our Vocal Performance Retreat at *The College Lodge* of SUNY Fredonia in Brocton, New York. Students from as far away as Japan, Chile, Austria, Germany, Brazil, Italy, and England have benefited through their participation in these programs.

FACILITIES

Located in the historic Flatiron neighborhood since its inception, its facilities include 6 teaching studios and 2 performance spaces, *The Dorothy Jones Theater* (50 seats) and *The Cabaret Room* (35 seats).

NOTABLE STUDENTS

Here are a few of the noteworthy students who have taken advantage of our unique and proven method: Liza Minnelli, Geraldine Fitzgerald, Mandy Patinkin, Joanne Woodward, Tony Bennett, Billy Stritch, Maryanne Plunkett, Saundra Santiago, Mariette Hartley, Regis Philbin, Patrick Dempsey, Alec Baldwin, Eartha Kitt, Bruno Kirby, Ben Wright, David Rasche, Julie Harris, Brooke Shields, Rue McClanahan, Maureen O'Sullivan, John Leguizamo, Bill Beutel, Christine Baranski, and Jean Kraft of the Metropolitan Opera.

STUDENT AWARDS

Academy Awards

Tony Awards

Emmy Awards

MAC Awards

Bistro Awards

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

SINGERS FORUM Vocal Academy

SINGERS FORUM is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the development and appreciation of the vocal arts for individuals of any age or level of experience and from all walks of life. It is unique among professional training schools because it offers year-round classes and private lessons for the emerging artist as well as the recreational singer in all styles of vocal performance including: opera, musical theatre, pop, jazz, cabaret and effective speaking.

SINGERS FORUM Community Singers & Outreach Program

The SINGERS FORUM Outreach Program, operating since 1989, provides a much-needed service to the senior community through traveling programs and complimentary tickets to the Forum's in-house concerts. With performances at senior centers, nursing homes, hospitals and hospices and at the studio itself, Singers Forum provides more than 120 free or reduced price performances to over 5,500 New York area seniors each year.

SINGERS FORUM Youth Program

The SINGERS FORUM Youth Outreach Program, an in-house intervention program, provides vocal training and music education opportunities to disadvantaged and at-risk youth. Open to upper elementary through high school age students, the Youth Program offers scholarships to young people for an individualized training program which introduces them to the joy of singing, in a supportive environment, while promoting the development and improvement of basic learning skills, social skills, self-discipline, self-worth and artistic appreciation.

**SINGERS FORUM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Spring 2009

Dale Ponikvar
Chairman

Dale Ponikvar is a partner of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy L.L.P. Mr. Ponikvar is a member of the Board of Directors of the Musical Theatre Works and of the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company. He is also a member of the Business Advisory Committee of the American Council on Germany in New York and the Board of Governors of the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research in New York. He is a member of the Tax Section of the New York State Bar Association.

John Koprowski
Treasurer

President of John J. Koprowski & Associates, a financial consulting firm which specializes in providing financial services to non-profit organizations — financial planning, financial systems development, reorganization strategies and advice on fund raising, investment policies and staffing.

Faith Robinson
Secretary

Director of Institutional Sales and Marketing AlpineWoods Capital Investors, LLC. Ms. Robinson has over eighteen years experience in institutional marketing, client service and sales. Before joining Alpine in August, 2005, she was with Schneider Capital Management as Managing Director – Institutional Sales and Marketing. Prior to that time she was with Deutsche Bank, ABN-Amro and was an Associate Director at SBC-PMI, the ERISA arm of the Swiss Bank Corporation. She is a graduate of New York University.

Louis Tallarini

President of Value Investors, Inc., a national real estate development and real estate finance company with diversified holdings in the commercial real estate and commercial real estate mortgage industries. Mr. Tallarini is the President and a member of the Board of Governors of the Columbus Citizens Foundation and served as the General Chairman of the Columbus Weekend Celebration in New York City (1999-2000; 2002-2005). In 2007, Mr. Tallarini became an Honorary Citizen of the town of Lacedonia, Italy, the birthplace of his maternal grandfather, received the Italian American Heritage Award from the Columbia Association of the New York City Police Department, and was honored by the Scuola d'Italia Guglielmo Marconi for his commitment to education and Italian culture. Singers Forum Board Chairman from 1986 until 1995 and Benefactor of the Year in 2001.

Singers Forum History and Tradition

Founded in 1978 by Andy Anselmo and John Albert Harris, Singers Forum was envisioned as a training center for the vocal arts. Combining training in the *bel canto* method with performance training in various singing styles, Singers Forum was unique in that it offered private voice lessons, classes and workshops, and a place where students could develop performance skills in a wide variety of vocal and performing styles ranging from opera to cabaret, and musical theatre.

Within a very short time this unique approach to training was attracting a talented and varied student body ranging from beginners and avocational singers, to established stars like Geraldine Fitzgerald, Maureen O' Sullivan, Joanne Woodward, Alec Baldwin, Jean Kraft, Eartha Kitt, Mandy Patinkin, Mariette Hartley, Saundra Santiago, and Brooke Shields.

Established as a not-for-profit foundation, Singers Forum emphasized community service as part of its program, providing free performances at senior centers, hospitals, and nursing homes, as part of a Senior Outreach Program.

The last year at our original Fifth Avenue location featured an all-star tribute to Geraldine Fitzgerald. Held at the Players Club, it included appearances by stars such as Mandy Patinkin, Eartha Kitt, Jose Ferrer, Kaye Ballard, and Douglas Fairbanks Jr.

Broadening its scope of activities within the next five years to include workshop productions of full-length musicals and new plays, Singers Forum moved to larger quarters on West 21st Street where fully staged performances could reach a wider audience. New additions to the student body included Billy Stritch, Liza Minnelli, Jose Ferrer, and Patrick Dempsey.



Andy Anselmo and Tovah Feldshuh

By its fifteenth anniversary, Singers Forum moved again, this time to 19th Street. The curriculum broadened to include workshops in jazz styling, music theory, and piano. Student enrollment exceeded 400. The Singers Forum Vocal Performance Retreat was initiated, drawing students to a beautiful, upstate New York setting for a week of intensive training and performances. The program was so successful that it was soon expanded to three weeks and a Youth Program for local children was added.

Meanwhile, in new quarters and supported by an active Board of Directors, the Youth Outreach Scholarship program was established. Free classes and lessons were offered to dozens of deserving children and, with the support of the city of New York, free after-school programs were held by Singers Forum faculty in several New York City public schools. Within five years, similar programs were established in Brocton, NY, and Princeton, New Jersey.

These and other programs were benefited by a spectacular all-star performance at Broadway's Roundabout Theatre. Billed as a "Superstar Salute" to founder Andy Anselmo on his 70th Birthday, it included a memorable cast of stars including Liza Minnelli, Mandy Patinkin, Julie Harris, Joanne Woodward, Anne Meara and Jerry Stiller, and Nancy Lamott.

With the establishment of the Andy Anselmo Achievement Awards, rising professional talent was encouraged and acknowledged. The annual benefit gala at Birdland helped support the scholarship programs, and has featured appearances by Alec Baldwin, Rue McClanahan, Julie Wilson, Billy Stritch, and John Leguizamo.

Meanwhile, the Singers Forum continued to expand its curriculum by offering Master Classes with Licia Albanese, Lucine Amara, Maxene Andrews, Dick Gallagher, Julie Wilson, and Tovah Feldshuh.

The Tradition of *Bel Canto*

Bel canto (literally “beautiful singing”) is a method of vocal training based on scientific principles of breathing, support and vocal placement. Developed and perfected by the Italian maestri of the 18th century and codified into vocal exercises and treatises, it formed the basis of singing technique for the next two centuries. Almost every great singer of the past studied and used the *bel canto* method to produce beautiful, expressive singing.

The great *bel canto* singing teachers were not only expert in the scientific principles of vocal production, but they were also guardians of the style and performance traditions of three hundred years of classical singing, since they were closely associated with the great composers and singers of the day

Typically these training methods and traditions were handed down from one generation of teachers to the next. At Singers Forum, one can trace the training back at least six generations — to Maestro Romano, who trained singers for opera productions of Rossini (conducted by the composer himself) to Luigi Vannuccini, who conducted the Italian premiere of Faust, supervised by Gounod and worked with Rossini, Bellini, Donizetti, and Verdi.

Vannuccini won world fame as a master teacher and for seven years taught his method to the famous bass Myron Whitney, and his son William L. Whitney. The younger Whitney achieved fame as a concert singer, studied Brahms lieder with the composer, and performed with Franz Liszt. He began teaching the method in his own singing schools in New York, Florence, Paris, and Boston, teaching a generation of great singers, including the American contralto Louise Homer. He later taught at the New England Conservatory of Music, where he trained the soprano Eleanor Steber, and Andy Anselmo, who in turn passed on his teaching to the next two generations of voice faculty at Singers Forum.



Andy Anselmo and Linda Burton

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The great teachers of the past taught their students the traditional *bel canto* technique, as well as the performance skills and the styles of their present day and recent past. Singers Forum continues this tradition — imparting the *bel canto* method, while teaching today’s and tomorrow’s singers the

best of recent performing styles, and the latest skills performers need in the 21st century.

These skills include microphone technique, recording studio skills, cabaret and jazz styling, arranging, piano, music theory, and every skill needed for today’s singer, whether professional or avocational. Student performances are complete with professional lighting and sound systems, recording and video technology, accompaniment by outstanding professional musicians, and direction from teachers with extensive experience in the professional arena.

Singers Forum is unique in its successful effort to continue the tradition of *bel canto* into the twenty-first century.

Singers Forum Community Service Programs

The Singers Forum is a not for profit organization dedicated to the development and appreciation of the vocal arts for individuals of any age or level of experience and from all walks of life. Founded in 1978, by Andy Anselmo and John Harris, the Singers Forum is built on a philosophy of personal development and artistic achievement through vocal training, performance, and community service. The Singers Forum community service programs reach a wide and varied constituency through our Senior Outreach and Youth Scholarship Program.

The Philip A. Campanella Youth Scholarship Program, for at-risk youths selected for their interest in music, is open to elementary through high school age students from the five boroughs of New York City. The Youth Program offers scholarships for an individualized training program which introduces participants to the joy of singing, in a supportive environment, while promoting the development and improvement of basic learning skills, social skills, self-discipline, and self-worth. The children enrolled in this program are referred by concerned individuals and through organizations such as The Partnership For The Homeless and The Fortune Society as well as the New York City Public Schools.



The Youth Outreach Singers

The musical experiences offered by the Youth Program provide a much-needed buffer between an at-risk child's basic survival need and the stark realities of their existence. The Children receive a combination of private vocal lessons and group lessons on a weekly basis. All music, rehearsal tapes and books are provided. Performance opportunities are a large part of the training, and each year the children participate in a holiday and a spring performance. They are also guest artists at our annual Gala which has been held at such places as Birdland, The Kaplan Penthouse, and Jazz at Lincoln Center. Those students who are seniors in high school and are aging out of the program receive a solo recital at the end of the year. Our mission is to provide the children with an increased understanding and appreciation of music while providing a safe and welcoming environment in which they can express themselves.



Olga del Mar, Outreach Singer

The Singers Forum Senior Outreach Program, operating since 1989, provides a vital and much needed service to the senior community through traveling programs and discounted and/or complimentary tickets to the Singers Forum's in-house concerts. With performances each month at senior centers, nursing homes, hospitals and hospices plus performances each month at the studio itself, the Forum provides more than 120 free or reduced price performances to over 5,000 New York seniors each year. Over the past ten years, we have developed an on-going relationship with 45 senior care program directors who call on a regular basis to schedule programs for their facility. Tailored to the needs of the respective audience, each program features a variety of musical styles and languages, mixed with a lively, informative repartee, a sing-a-long, and lots of one-on-one interaction between performer and listener.

Throughout the year we offer free or reduced-price tickets to over 45 recitals, showcases and concerts held at the Singers Forum. In addition to word of mouth advertising by neighborhood seniors who know of this service, we send concert schedules and flyers to senior centers around Manhattan.

The programs are funded by the generosity of our donors and the support of foundations including the Turrell Fund, the Whitney Houston Foundation, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

Youth Outreach Scholarship Program

The Singers Forum Youth Outreach Scholarship Program is manifested in three separate programs located in Manhattan, Brocton, NY and Jersey City, NJ. Although based on similar teaching techniques and concepts, each program is tailored for the specific needs of the community it serves.

New York Program

Students in this program come to Singers Forum's main location on 24th Street in Manhattan for their classes and lessons. The students are divided into groups (Levels) by grade. Each Level has a weekly group class, and individual students are given one-on-one attention in a bi-weekly private lesson. Students have five performance opportunities each year — at venues that have included Birdland, Lincoln Center and the Hudson Theater — and seniors receive a solo recital at the end of the year.

All students are expected to adhere to a code of conduct and attendance, and parents are welcome to meet with teachers for Progress Reports. In addition to instruction and performances, Singers Forum provides sheet music, audio tapes, transportation reimbursement and other supplies.

Brocton Program

Each summer, Singers Forum operates a one-week singing camp in Brocton, NY. Twenty-five students take intensive technique and performance lessons, and put on a show at the end of the week. Two of our talented teachers run the program, with help from local representatives. The program normally costs \$250 for the week, but Singers Forum offers scholarships to five children with financial need.

Jersey City Program

Jersey City, NJ is the newest addition to our program. Funded by The Turrell Fund, this program takes place every Saturday at Jersey City Public School #6 with students in Grade 4.

In this program, 10 children (5 boys and 5 girls) receive private 30-minute lessons. Two teachers are employed by Singers Forum with a P.S. #6 teacher on hand to help supervise the children. A Spring and Holiday performance take place at the school. Singers Forum provides sheet music, audio tapes and music folders, as well.

Organization	Average Audience Size	Address	Visits during 9/03-6/08
92 nd Street Y	N/A	1395 Lexington Avenue	3
The Actor's Home	N/A		2
Atria	N/A	333 W. 86th St.	2
Bialystoker Home of the Aged	40	228 East Broadway	1
Brown Gardens Senior Center	75	225 East 93 rd Street	4
Capital Hall of Goddard Riverside	40	166 West 87 th Street	17
Capitol Apartments	N/A	840 Eighth Ave.	1
Caring Community	N/A	20 Washington Sq. N.	4
Carnegie East	N/A	1822 2 nd Avenue	11
Castle Senior Living	50	430 East 80 th Street	32
Central Synagogue	50	123 East 55 th Street	4
Clinton Senior Center	45	530 West 55 th Street	4
Community Lounge of Gustavus Adolphus Church	N/A	155 East 22nd Street	5
Council Senior Center	N/A	241 W 72nd Street	2
CV Starr	40	445 East 85 th Street	37
DeWitt Nursing Home	75	211 E. 79 th Street	1
Encore Senior Center at St. Malachy's	58	239 West 49 th Street	10
Esplanade Hotel	70	305 West End Avenue	16
Goddard Riverside Community Center	338	593 Columbus Avenue	9
Hallmark	85	455 North End Ave.	1
JASA Bronx (Van Cortlandt Senior Center)	50	3880 Sedgewick Avenue	4
JASA West	N/A	120 West 76th Street	10
Jewish Home	N/A	120 W. 106th Street	2
Lennox Hill Senior Center/St. Peter's	55	619 Lexington Avenue	8
Lott Residence	N/A	1261 Fifth Ave.	8
Mary Manning Wash	103	1339 York Avenue	6
Nat'l Council of Jewish Women, Brooklyn	150	1625 Ocean Avenue	1
Penn South Senior Center	71	290 Ninth Avenue	24
Reformed Temple of Forest Hills	30	71-11 112 th Street	1
Rodeph Shalom Temple	N/A	7 West 83 rd Street	1
Roosevelt Hospital (TOPA)	25	428 West 59th Street	14
Roosevelt Island Senior Association (RISA)	200		1
Senior Health Partner	N/A	4 E. 107 Street	1
SPOP (Service Program for Older People)	30	575 Amsterdam	39
St. Luke's Hospital	25	114 th @ Amsterdam	8
St. Peter's	N/A	619 Lexington Avenue	1
Tavern on the Green	N/A		1
Temple Sharray	55	250 East 79 th Street	4
Village Nursing Home	50	607 Hudson Street	2
Visions St. Selis Manor Church	N/A	135 West 23 rd Street	1
West 74th Street Home	50	300 Amsterdam	9