

Master Class with Total Vocal / Deke Sharon Seminars

For the past twenty years, Total Vocal has participated in some of the world's largest a cappella conventions as well as held numerous private events across North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Australia.

We custom tailor all workshops to the specific needs, interests and demographics of the attendees. We've worked with choral conductors, pop stars, high school singers, recreational vocalists, college music majors, fans, music industry professionals, and everything in between. You tell us who's coming, and we'll make sure our presentations are interesting and informative for everyone involved.

Masterclasses:

(length varies depending on number of groups and songs)

Our most popular workshop format is the Masterclass, which we include in each of our events. In it, a group performs for all the attendees, and then our clinician works with the group.

All styles and levels of groups are welcome to perform as part of the masterclass, as the topics covered relate to groups and singers universally. We can work with more than one group in a masterclass session, provided we have a minimum of 20 minute with each group.

Seminar Topics:

(usually approx. 1 hour each)

Development of Style: So you've sung the standards, and know many other group's biggest songs. Now what? Learn how to take your group's unique strengths and interests and build them into a style that's all your own. We'll address musical style as well as visual and performance style. Before you know it other groups will be singing your songs!

Performance Presentation: A vocal music performance is about much more than just singing. How do you greet the audience? What are you wearing? How do you move during songs? How's your show paced? This seminar will address the aspects of performing on stage besides singing, and will increase your both your and the audiences enjoyment of a concert.

Beginning Vocal Percussion: One of the most notable elements of contemporary a cappella, vocal percussion has become an essential element in presenting a dynamic, current sound with nothing but voices. Learn the fundamentals of this skill, weaving together bass drum, snare and high hat to provide a compelling groove, and begin to explore some additional sounds like cymbals, shakers, and wood blocks.

Close Harmony Blend/Improving Tuning: As singers, we all want the best blend possible. But how? By looking at the 4 elements of sound (pitch, duration, loudness and timbre), discover how you can improve your group's blend.

Competition Tips: The International Collegiate A Cappella Competition. The Harmony Sweepstakes. It seems that one of the best ways to make a name for yourself in the a cappella community is to compete. Find out what many groups before you learned the hard way: how to put on a great performance during a competition.

Singing By The Numbers: Wanna learn how to sing a cappella harmony without any sheet music? Using the diatonic scale (do-re-mi), learn how to use your ear and some very basic music theory to create interesting background parts to a wide variety of popular songs.

Question and Answer: Often the last seminar of the day, this session is an open question and answer period that gives attendees an opportunity to raise issues and topics that are of interest to their group, or that tie together multiple concepts that were raised earlier in the day.