

Staff-Led Workshops

Kathy Bullock's Workshops:

Music of the Civil Rights Era

Songs of power, faith and hope, the music from the civil rights movement from 1940-60s, in the United States, has made a significant contribution to the story of the movement.

Congressman John Lewis said that “The Civil Rights Movement without music is like a bird without wings.” So we will explore and sing songs that were frequently utilized, as we honor the people and their stories.

Gospel Music, Sharing the Joy

We will sing gospel music and spirituals from the African American culture and tradition.

Ranging from traditional to contemporary arrangements, we will learn and sing songs of uplift, encouragement and joy. Get ready to pat your feet, clap your hands and sing, sing, sing... we will have a great time.

Singing in the Spirit; African and African American Musical Connections

This session will share the musical and cultural connections between African American culture and its West African heritage. An interactive session, I will chart the historical journey of Africans from West Africa to the United States, sharing stories, singing spirituals and

affirming the profound music culture that emerged, and honoring the enduring power of the human spirit.

Alice Gerrard's Workshops:

Women in Southern Traditional Music

Women have always sung and played traditional music: music that grew and flourished in traditional communities since the beginning of time. Although often unrecognized and often oppressed, these women played a vital part in preserving and in advancing musical traditions, and they insisted on being heard. This presentation will show, in photos, audio, and video some of these women and the communities in which they lived and from which they drew their strength. Many of them had a profound influence on Alice. Many of the materials in this session come from Alice's personal archive.

Antiracist Traditional Music on Tour in the 1960's: Southern Folk Cultural Revival Project

Alice will present a program about The Southern Folk Cultural Revival Project showing photos and talking about the tour. The SFCRP was a traveling concert series spearheaded by Anne Romaine and Bernice Reagon (Sweet Honey in the Rock) in the 1960's. It featured an integrated group of both black and white roots performers including Elizabeth Cotten, Roscoe Holcomb, Bessie Jones, Dock Boggs, Hazel & Alice, and many other wonderful singers and players doing shows around the South. She took a lot of photos of the tours, so the program will be centered on her recollections and photos of those tours. In their own words: "The answer to existence in today's world lies in the ability of man to accentuate this common bonds, setting them up as

lines of communication with others. We would like to show that in America, one of their common bonds lies in our grassroots music. In spite of the fact that many of us have existed for years at opposite poles on many issues, when it comes to music, we draw freely from each other."

The Nitty Gritty of Traditional Southern Singing (from old-time to country)

We will focus on style. This means finding YOUR key; and YOUR way of singing a song; what goes into that song that gives it a particular sound/feeling/style—such as phrasing and embellishments, tone, nuance, etc. I will sing, talk about the song, give you sources you can listen to. You will have access to the class so you'll be able to listen a lot to each song. Song lyrics, tips and links to source recordings (where available) will be shared after the class. Participants will have access to the songs after.

Val Mindel's Workshops:

Beyond The Basics Of Early Country Harmony

There's often more to country harmony than meets the ear on first listen. Here we'll learn the bones of two or three songs that show different ways to harmonize, from crossing harmonies to switching leads, adding color notes and more. I'll be joined by my daughter, Emily Miller (remember YTS 2019!).

Finding Songs

What to think about, where to look, how to make a song yours. We'll take an old and a not-so-old song from various song sources (think old-time American country music) and explore what's involved in bringing them into your repertoire.

Old Songs For Young Kids

There are a lot of great children's songs in Appalachian and early country music. We'll sing a mighty handful of them (word sheets will be available) and talk about ways we might want to adapt them when we share them.

Nancy Kerr & James Fagan's Workshops:

Modal Harmony for Singers – Nancy Kerr and James Fagan

Nancy and James are vocal coaches on both Folk Music university courses in England, and a working familiarity with the 7-note “folk” modes or scales is central to their teaching – as well as to their own musical performance. Through some contextual background and practical repertoire, you will uncover the individual emotive qualities of several modes and what they mean for your singing, whether you're a soloist or singing with friends.

Vocal Ornamentation – Nancy Kerr

For all singers, experienced or newer to it! Nancy will take you through those subtle embellishments that can make a traditional song performance extra special, with

demonstrations, global examples from some of the best technicians in the business, and plenty of chances to try the techniques yourself.

Fiddlesinging and Folk Arrangement – Nancy Kerr, with James Fagan

Nancy presents a detailed deconstruction of one of her arrangements - the ballad Barbara Allen as collected from English Romany singer Queen Caroline Hughes - and the art of “fiddlesinging”. She will discuss how we can integrate different musical influences and experiment with rhythm and harmony, while James will reflect on the role of the Irish Bouzouki, guitar and other instruments when co-creating textured and thoughtful backing for folk songs.

Dena Ross Jennings' Workshops:

Fruitlandia: Appreciation v. Appropriation in Music and Dance

Fruitlandia: Racism in the arts

Dr. Dena Jennings leads these workshops to explore this topic and equip attendees with tools to recognize and address cultural appropriation.

Attendees will work together to expand their understanding of conflict transformation, the basic needs that manifest in human interaction, tools available to explore coexistence in the midst of conflict, and an overview of truth and reconciliation. Attendees will use the tools of

psychology, social change, reconciliation, and communication. Please note that session 1 is not a pre-requisite for session 2!

Committee-Led Workshops

Anti-Racism 101 - Nicole Singer

Why is everyone talking about race and racism in traditional song? If you've been asking this question, join us for an introductory workshop on racism, privilege, and how they operate in our song communities. We'll discuss how and why to talk about race, reflect on our own privilege and experiences, and start to notice power dynamics that exist in all social settings - yes, even the awesome traditional folk music community! This discussion is particularly good for anyone who hasn't talked much about race and racism before; anyone who has talked a lot about these things, but it was more than ten years ago; and anyone who wants their local singing events to be more anti-racist and diverse but needs a starting point.

Skill level: All levels, though beginner-focused

Category: Discussion

What to bring: Open ears & an open mind

Calling Out/Calling In: Giving and Receiving Antiracist Feedback - Chris Bracken

This workshop will be a conversation about how to give and receive constructive feedback in response to harmful and intolerant words and ideas, primarily focusing on how to talk to folks in social singing spaces. Have you tried to discuss a racist lyric or problematic stereotype with singers in your community? What worked well or poorly? How did they respond? Have there been times someone told you something you sang or shared was problematic? How did that feel? How did you respond? We'll trade experiences, ideas, and strategies for how to survive these uncomfortable but necessary conversations.

Skill level: All are welcome

Category: Discussion

What to bring: Stories of your experiences in this area, or questions/challenges

Tactical Anti-Racism for Organizers - A'yen Tran and Rhys McGovern

Whether you've been running events for years or are curious about organizing your first song-swap, we all have work to do in making traditional music inclusive of everyone. We will look at the importance of intersectionality, anti-racism, and centering marginalized people's

experiences in organizing. We'll share strategies and tools, and problem-solve some community scenarios together. Built with community organizers in mind, this workshop will focus on building safe, celebratory communities for all.

Skill level: All are welcome

Category: Discussion

What to bring: Your enthusiasm for organizing and community-building

Attendee-led Workshops:

Scottish-Song Session – Nora Rodes

A short introduction followed by an open song session.

Skill level: All are welcome

Category: singing session

What to bring: Bring a song to share, or simply come to listen.

Singing with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides – Theresa Danks

For the last 100+ years, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides have maintained a tradition of singing at meetings, trips, and of course, campfires. The songs may be silly or serious; some were written specifically for Girl Scouts/Guides, but we sing traditional and pop songs, too.

Come share a favorite song or listen to what the girls (and adult volunteers) sing.

Everyone is invited.

Skill level: For those with some experience in Girl Scouts or Girl Guides, or anyone else

Category: singing session

What to bring: Bring a song to share, optional

Atheist & Agnostic Songs & "Hymns" – Lynz Morahn & Cate Clifford

A song circle created by Lynz Morahn and Cate Clifford in 2017 as a space to share songs of hope, community, peace, perseverance, love, etc. without reference to god(s) or religion.

Skill level: Anyone can attend, to lead a song or just to listen!

Category: singing session

What to bring: Bring a song to share if you want, but not required

Nigunim: Jewish Wordless Melodies – Lucy Kahn

Nigunim (pronounced nih-goo-neem) are wordless melodies from the Jewish tradition.

Singing nigunim was popularized by Hasidic Jews in the 18th century, and now the

practice includes songs from throughout the Jewish diaspora. I'll bring a selection of nigunim, old and new, to share and there will also be time for anyone to lead a nigun they know. People of any faith and any experience level are welcome!

Skill level: All skill levels welcome, no familiarity with this style of singing required!

Category: singing session

What to bring: nothing

Online Performance 101 – Lynn Noel

What do you need and what do you do to present your music/song/dance/storytelling online? We'll cover studio gear, platforms, stage setup, general tech, and how to deal with All the Feels about performing alone to a camera for an online audience.

Skill level: Absolutely no experience needed!

Category: skill teaching/practice

What to bring: knowing what computer, microphone, and camera you have will help, but isn't required

Making Sound Equipment Your Friend – Dennis Cook

A skill-building workshop with presentation, discussion and questions-and-answers. We'll look at the electronic sound tools in live, recording and online settings. We'll talk about Microphones, Equalization, Compression, Mixing, Speakers and Feedback.

Skill level: Any

Category: skill teaching/practice

What to bring: Nothing, unless you have questions about specific equipment you own.

Songs of Transformation (Help! My true love has been turned into a stag/bird/ghost*/bear) – Joni

Share a song about someone who has been transformed into a stag/bird/ghost*/bear/etc.

*Note: if it's about a ghost, the song **MUST** feature a haunting or exorcism of some sort, passing mentions in murder ballads don't count.

Skill level: All levels, no expertise needed

Category: singing session

What to bring: Bring a song to share!

Sea Songs and Shanties – Cosette Veeder-Shave

It will be a song session, sharing sea shanties in songs from the maritime Song history.

Attendees can sing songs they know and/or listen to new ones from others!

Skill level: Any skill level

Category: singing session

What to bring: A song to share is suggested but not required!

Song Translation 101 – Laurel North

The workshop will walk through how to choose a song and translate the lyrics, even if one does not speak the language. It will be part presentation and part skill building.

Skill level: All levels

Category: presentation

What to bring: pen and notebook

Ballads of Courage (F.J. Child Collection) – Martha Teeter

The Francis James Child collection was compiled in the late 1800s into 305 ballads that tell stories found in many cultures. They have versions mainly from Europe and America. Many tunes were collected by Bronson in the 1960s. The ballads have a mythic dimension, although some relate to historical events. Subjects include the supernatural; human passions; love and family struggles; the story of Robin Hood; and battles and "Border reivers" in Scotland and England.

The leader will give an introduction and then sing a ballad. Each participant will indicate if they wish to sing by typing singer or listener in the Zoom Chat. The singers will be called on to sing in the number order in which they typed singer in the Chat. We'll sing around the circle in number order as long as time allows.

Skill level: beginners to medium

Category: singing session, song circle

What to bring: A ballad to share a cappella preferred, support instrument OK

Communal Naptime: Lullabies and Quiet Songs for All Ages – Heidi Slaney

Face it: after a long night of singing, music-making, catching up with your friends, and general (virtual) carousing, what you need is an hour of nice, quiet songs and lullabies to relax to. Bring your favorite lullaby or naptime song, comfy clothes, your lovey and blanket (if you're so inclined), and participate in this themed sing. Toddlers and infants in need of rest time are optional, but certainly welcome!

Skill level: All are welcome!

Category: singing session

What to bring: Lullabies or Relaxing songs to share (choruses optional but appreciated), stuffed animals/blankets if so inclined

Harmony: Fake It Til You Make It – Jayke Bouche & Rhys McGovern

Harmony with many voices sounds incredible, but if finding and singing harmony doesn't come easily to you, it can feel personally challenging, frustrating, and discouraging. In this workshop we will break down some of our favorite harmony techniques and tricks—no music theory background needed. We will also have time for practice and share a resources list after the workshop. If you want to play with harmony singing but haven't been sure how to start or where to go next, this is for you!

Skill level:

Category: skill teaching / practice

What to bring: Yourself and a willingness to play