



AEC Pop and Jazz Platform 2024



This proposal seeks to present an innovative approach to jazz voice education that maximizes student learning through the integration of private lessons and group sessions by strategically combining the two formats. The method offers a balanced fusion of student-centered learning and the so-called “one size fits all” approach, while promoting peer review, performance anxiety management, and collaborative skill development.

This presentation will talk about an innovative pedagogical approach that enhances the effectiveness of jazz voice instruction by combining private lessons with group sessions, specifically tailored for first-year vocalists. The primary objective is to optimize the learning process while fostering a collaborative and supportive environment for students. This method was developed because I felt that my students weren’t given enough time for voice lessons in their curriculum, and I realized there were certain elements that I could more effectively teach in a group setting. The method incorporates a tool I have developed called “style analysis”, a simple but powerful way to identify, dissect and internalize various vocal jazz styles, enabling students to enhance their musical and technical abilities. The method also emphasizes the importance of achieving style authenticity, empowering students with the knowledge to choose when and how to incorporate specific stylistic elements into their singing.

This innovative alternative to a curriculum containing only private lessons can be applied to students of all instruments, facilitating a comprehensive and engaging learning experience. The session will detail the structure of the group sessions, delve into the style analysis tool, and emphasize the broad applicability of this approach to educators across the college level.

Anna Jalkéus is a singer, harpist, and composer known as a powerful, creative musician who writes genre-bending music with fearlessness and originality. She has received many national awards such as the JEN Young Composer Showcase, Swedish Monica Zetterlund and Ted Gärdestad awards, scholarship from STIM (Swedish ASCAP), and an “Outstanding Performance” award with her band in DownBeat Student Music Awards 2017. Anna has performed with her band across three continents, and the LA Jazz Scene called her debut album “Estrogenia” “a thought-provoking work of art (...), a compelling debut recording by a fascinating artist and equally compelling group”.

After several years living and working in the US, Anna is currently residing in her home country of Sweden. Since October 2021 she holds down the position as Lektor (Associate Professor) of Jazz Voice at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. Prior to her current appointment Anna was a member of the renowned jazz faculty at University of North Texas, teaching voice lessons and improvisation as well as directing the award winning UNT Jazz Singers in the fall of 2018.