



Fabiana Katz is an accomplished mezzo-soprano and has performed with choirs and orchestras all over the country. She has taught singing for over 27 years and is an expert technician and pedagogue, with a strong instinct for diagnosing vocal problems and finding solutions from a physiological perspective. Her intuitive and empathic nature is of great value when teaching.

Ms Katz's approach to vocal pedagogy is holistic and organic, based on the natural and proper structure of the singing apparatus and efficiency of the mechanism, and is tailored to the individual and his or her particular issues at the time. Her first priority is always to reveal and ease tension in the body, thereby releasing trapped sound energy and achieving greater physical relaxation to allow for a free, resonant voice.

Ms Katz's solo performance experience include engagements with the Regina Symphony Orchestra, the Berkshire Choral Festival, Symphony Nova Scotia, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Pacific Baroque Orchestra, the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Orchestra, the Prince George Symphony Orchestra, and the CBC Radio Orchestra, among others. Ms. Katz is equally comfortable performing in the classical style as in contemporary commercial idioms, such musical theatre, pop and folk, especially the music of Latin America.

As a conductor, Ms. Katz's knowledge of the vocal mechanism imbues and informs her choral rehearsal and methods. Her focus is on the instinctive, somatic and relaxed functioning of the singing apparatus and all its systems, and her solutions to choral problems are always based on sound vocal technique.

Ms. Katz's philosophy of sound production is based on the embodied voice, the relationship between body and expression of sound and emotion, the connection between the intuitive, natural speaking voice and the physiology of our bodies, and its extension to singing.

Ms. Katz has Masters of Music in Choral Conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.



Walter Martella, conductor and Music Director of the Powell River Academy of Music, has long been an integral part of Powell River's musical community. He is an accomplished pianist, accordionist and trumpeter, starting lessons at age five, and soon joining the original Boys Choir conducted by Don James. Music remained his focus as he earned a Diploma in Jazz Trumpet from Malaspina College (VIU), a Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Victoria and attended the Banff School of Fine Arts.

Conducting became a significant part of Martella's life and career when he returned to Powell River to study at PRAM under Don James. He has participated in the British Columbia Choral Federation's conducting program and has collaborated with world-renowned

conductors. He has led noteworthy works like Holst's *Rig Veda* for choir and harp, the *Messiah*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. He conducts the Academy Chamber Choir, Chor Musica Men's Choir and the Powell River Chorus as well as currently maintaining a full private teaching schedule.

Martella is a strong believer in the power of music as an important part of community. He has been an adjudicator for instrumental and choral festivals throughout British Columbia and is well known as an enthusiastic mentor, making room for his young students in his own public performances. He has recorded six jazz CDs, performed provincially with many well-known musicians in multiple genres and continues to be in demand all along the West Coast as a trumpet soloist and jazz pianist.



MIKE STACK

Mike Stack is a Vancouver-based teaching artist, adjudicator, performer and director with over thirty-five years of professional experience. He has served as adjudicator of Speech Arts with a number of the B.C. regional festivals, as well as the 2017 B.C. and 2019 Alberta Provincial Festivals. He will be returning to Alberta for this year's Provincial Festival. As a performer he has worked with companies such as Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival, Arts Club Theatre, Axis Theatre, Touchstone, Ruby Slippers, Pi Theatre, and the Vancouver Playhouse, among others. He has been fortunate to have had the opportunity to tour with theatre productions throughout North America as well as overseas to Europe, Japan, Hong Kong, and Israel. His extensive experience with young people includes fifteen years as coordinator of the Young Shakespeareans Summer Workshops program at Bard on the Beach, director for Theatre Temp at Templeton Secondary in

East Vancouver, student performer coordinator and director with Mortal Coil Performance Society's Stanley Park Hallowe'en Ghost Train, and guest director with Smithers Secondary. Since 2002 he has led ongoing Shakespeare workshops for throughout the Lower Mainland Home-learning community. Mike is a multiple Jessie Richardson Theatre Award nominee and recipient, and a graduate of the Studio 58 Professional Theatre Training Program at Langara College.



David Poon is a professional organist, harpsichordist, and pianist in demand for performances on the Sunshine Coast and around the Lower Mainland. Taking lessons from Patricia Miller in Port Alberni from the age of six, he developed a love of music and has followed in her footsteps teaching music and directing choirs.

David is a member of the BC Registered Music Teachers' Association and holds diplomas from both the University of British Columbia and the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. He is currently the Assistant Director of Music at St. John's Vancouver Anglican Church; accompanist for Choralations Childrens Choir and Pender Harbour Community Choir; and music director for the Coast Messiah Choir, MOTET chamber choir, and Vespersong. He plays regularly for the Gallery Singers and Holy Rosary Cathedral in Vancouver, and is a ubiquitous coach and collaborator for music students on the Lower Coast.

His transcription projects include barless editions of Tomkins' sacred works, video game boss battle music, and Messiaen for viols. Outside of teaching, performing, arranging, and composing, he is often found with too many board games and not enough cheese, while inflicting modes of limited transposition upon his wife Sarah and their four children.



Sarah (Tippett) Poon is a music educator, performer, conductor, and freelance musician. She began her musical studies on violoncello, studying for many years under John Doerksen and later under Eric Wilson at the University of British Columbia. It was during her undergraduate years at UBC that Sarah fell in love with playing baroque 'cello and discovered the satisfying beauty of the viola da gamba.

Sarah performs all over the Lower Mainland and on the Sunshine Coast with Vancouver Viols (of which she is a founding member), Grace Notes String Quartet (which she manages), and as a continuo team with her harpsichord-playing husband, David. In addition to performance on 'cello and viol, she conducted the Coast Chamber Strings, Sunshine Coast Youth Strings, Sunshine Coast Introductory Strings for 7 seasons and continues to direct the Coast Messiah Orchestra and Coast Messiah Choir, all while maintaining an active teaching studio of more than forty students on the Sunshine Coast and in

Vancouver.

Now in her twenty-seventh year of teaching, Sarah's growing studio of students continues to delight and challenge her to grow alongside them. She is passionate about teaching and about music-making in general, and it is her goal to grow that passion in each of her students.

When not teaching or making music, Sarah enjoys puzzling, reading, and watching reruns of Doctor Who. She resides in beautiful Gibsons, BC, with David and their four young children.



Marcel Tremel is an adjudicator, choreographer, performer, and dance educator based in the Vancouver area. He is a certified ADA Adjudicator, and a proud member of the Professional Adjudicators Alliance. Marcel is also a fully certified Dance Teacher with ADAPT Syllabus (Jazz, Tap), Canadian Dance Teachers' Association (Jazz, Tap, Acro), Acrobatic Arts, Progressing Ballet Technique, Alixa Flexibility and is working towards completing his certification with the Acro Dance Teachers Association. Additionally, Marcel is a graduate of the Canadian College of Performing Arts (CCPA) where he completed the full three-year program, earning him a Diploma in Applied Performing Arts.

Over the years, Marcel has had several exciting opportunities to perform and showcase his choreography, some of the highlights include: touring Western Canada and parts of the United States with a song and dance group called Saskatchewan Express, co-choreographing the CCPA's production of *Young Frankenstein*, starring in CCPA's production of *Lend Me A Tenor*, choreographing *Hello, Dolly!* with Fraser Valley Stage, and touring in

England to dance in the Gilbert and Sullivan International Festival in a production of *The Gondoliers*.

The versatility in Marcel's training has allowed him to push the boundaries of basic dance routines and create exciting new pieces to share with his community. He has been recognized with numerous choreography awards, had several high score/overall wins with his pieces, and has had students be accepted into prestigious post secondary institutions and even go on to become teachers themselves. Marcel is passionate about dance education, and continues to train and perform as a working professional artist around the West Coast.