

**VocalFest 2025 — Sheraton Parsippany**  
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS with Class Descriptions**

TIME	ACTIVITY	ROOM	DESCRIPTION
	<b>Friday, September 19</b>		
4:00 PM	Registration Opens	Grand Foyer	
5:00 PM	<b>Early Bird Mix and Mingle</b> (1 hour):	Grand Ballroom	Make some new friends from around the region! Chat, sing a tag or regional song, find a dinner buddy, and shop the fundraising tables ahead of the crowds.
5:00 PM	<b>Early Bird Regional Faculty Class</b> (1 hour): Is This Song Contestable? with Jeanne Elmuccio	Florham Park	Determining the appropriate songs to choose for contest is an important starting point for presenting your group well. We will discuss the arranger's perspective, the Judge's perspective, contemporary a cappella, and other stuff to consider.
6:00 PM	<i>Dinner on your own</i>		
7:00-8:10 PM	Regional Song: Send Your Love <b>Welcome and Dynasty Class 1</b> (1 hour): <b>Meet Dynasty and Let's Get Singing!</b>	Grand Ballroom	Connect with the members of Dynasty, begin learning a song together and be reminded "Why We Sing".
8:15 PM	<b>VocalFest Chorus Rehearsal #1</b> (45 min): <b>Why We Sing</b> [Debbie Cleveland]	Grand Ballroom	Attendees are invited to participate or observe this first rehearsal. Participants are asked to learn Why We Sing in advance. Chorus will perform Saturday night.
8:15 PM	<b>Regional Faculty Class</b> (45 min): Tag Singing! with Stephanie Ofshinsky	Florham Park	Learn and sing tags!
9:00-10:00 PM	<b>Novice Quartet Contest!</b>	Grand Ballroom	Novice quartets (no more than 2 members who have competed at the regional level) are invited to participate with one song of their choice.
10:00-10:30 PM	<b>Quartet Chorus Rehearsal #1: As Long As I'm Singing</b> [Kat Britt]	Grand Ballroom	All members of registered quartets and the Blue Notes who have learned the song As Long As I'm Singing are invited to participate. Chorus will perform Saturday night.
	<b>Saturday, September 20</b>		
7:00 AM	<i>Breakfast on your own</i>		
8:00 AM	Registration Opens	Grand Foyer	
8:00 AM	Blue Notes Meeting & Rehearsal	Florham Park	All members of the Blue Notes (Quartet Champion Chorus) are invited.
9:00 AM	<b>Welcome and Roll Call</b> with Alicia Caron and Evelyn Langenstein Song by a medalist quartet	Grand Ballroom	
9:15 AM	<b>Dynasty Class 2</b> (1 hour): <b>The Craft of Singing</b>	Grand Ballroom	Get to know more about how your own voice works, and start your day of singing with physical and vocal warm-ups.
10:15 AM	<b>Region 15: Oh the Places We'll Go!</b> with Jenn Hunter	Grand Ballroom	Join RMT Leader Jenn Hunter as she shares Region 15's strategic plan - where we are now, where we are headed, and how you can help us get there.
10:30 AM	<i>Stretch Break (5 min)</i>		Move to the correct room for the Sing Your Part Smart class
10:35 AM	<b>Dynasty Class 3</b> (1 hour): <b>How to Sing your Part Smart: using "Why We Sing"</b>	Grand Ballroom - Lead Florham Park - Bass Denville - Tenor Dover - Baritone	Explore your best voice part practices in one of four singing sessions with Sarah, Debbie, Michaela, or Jenny.
11:35 AM	<b>Quartet Chorus Rehearsal #2</b> (25 min): <b>As Long As I'm Singing</b> [Kat Britt]	Grand Ballroom	All members of registered quartets and the Blue Notes who have learned the song As Long As I'm Singing are invited to participate. Chorus will perform Saturday night.
12:00 PM	<i>Lunch on your own</i>		Hotel "Amuse" restaurant will be open or you can go off site.
12:00 PM	Directors/Team Coordinators Lunch with Jenn Hunter and Harriette Walters	Grand Ballroom South	All Region 15 Chorus Directors and Team Coordinators/Presidents are invited.
1:15 PM	<b>VocalFest Chorus Rehearsal #2: Why We Sing</b> <b>Directed by Debbie Cleveland</b>	Grand Ballroom	Attendees are invited to participate or observe. Participants are asked to learn Why We Sing in advance. Chorus will perform Saturday night.
1:15 PM	<b>Regional Faculty Classes</b> (1 hour each - Choose One): 1. Building a Culture of Belonging: Gender-Inclusive Communication (Colleen Christi Willett) <b>Dover</b> 2. Real Living in Imaginary Circumstances (Alexis DePersia-Norelli) <b>Florham Park</b> 3. GVI (Group Vocal Instruction) (Sky Harris) <b>Madison</b> 4. Show Planning and Management (Jeanne Elmuccio) <b>Chatham</b> 5. Thrive TOGETHER (Harriette Walters & Evelyn Langenstein) <b>Livingston</b> 6. Core Values and Long Term Planning (Sabrina Doolittle) <b>Morristown</b>	<i>Room assignments next to each class</i>	<b>Regional Faculty Classes</b> (1 hour each - Choose One):  <b>Class Descriptions are listed below at the end of the master schedule.</b>
2:15 PM	<i>Break (15 min)</i>		
2:30 PM	Song by a medalist quartet <b>Dynasty Class 4</b> (1 hour): <b>Rehearsal Techniques and Q&amp;A</b>	Grand Ballroom	Go inside a Dynasty rehearsal, practice along, and ask all your burning questions.
3:30 PM	<i>Break (15 min)</i>		

3:45 PM	<b>Regional Faculty Classes</b> (1 hour each - Choose One): 1. Building a Culture of Belonging: Gender-Inclusive Communication (Colleen Christi Willett) <b>Dover</b> 2. Real Living in Imaginary Circumstances (Alexis DePersia-Norelli) <b>Florham Park</b> 3. GVI (Group Vocal Instruction) (Sky Harris) <b>Madison</b> 4. Show Planning and Management (Jeanne Elmuccio) <b>Chatham</b> 5. Music Category Q & A (Carolyn Schmidt) <b>Livingston</b> 6. Core Values and Long Term Planning (Sabrina Doolittle) <b>Morristown</b> 7. Tag Singing! (Stephanie Ofshinsky) <b>Grand Ballroom</b>	Room assignments next to each class	<b>Regional Faculty Classes</b> (1 hour each - Choose One):  <b>Class Descriptions are listed below at the end of the master schedule.</b>
4:45 PM	Break		
4:45 PM	<i>Riser rehearsals:</i> HCC - 4:50-5:15 GNC - 5:25-5:50	Grand Ballroom	
6:00 PM	<b>Happy Hour/Sing with the Champs</b>	Grand Foyer	Time to mingle before the Regional Dinner and Show. Cash bar available.
7:00 PM	<b>Regional Dinner</b> (included with Registration Packages A, B, and D) and Member of Note and Longevity Awards Recognition	Grand Ballroom	
8:00 PM	<b>Saturday Night Show: Celebration of International Competitors</b> VocalFest Chorus ( <i>Why We Sing</i> ) Quartet Chorus ( <i>As Long As I'm Singing</i> ) 942- <b>Denville</b> Young Singers Chorus Saffron - <b>Livingston</b> VOCE- <b>Chatham</b> Illuminate - <b>Dover</b> HCC - No room needed Yellow Brick Road - <b>Florham Park</b> GNC - No room needed Dynasty - <b>Morristown</b> Distribution of love gifts for international competitors in Columbus, Ohio End-of-Show Regional Song: <i>How We Sang Today</i>	Grand Ballroom	<b>Saturday Night Show: Celebration of International Competitors</b> VocalFest Chorus ( <i>Why We Sing</i> ) Quartet Chorus ( <i>As Long As I'm Singing</i> ) 942- <b>Denville</b> Young Singers Chorus Saffron - <b>Livingston</b> VOCE- <b>Chatham</b> Illuminate - <b>Dover</b> HCC - No room needed Yellow Brick Road - <b>Florham Park</b> GNC - No room needed Dynasty - <b>Morristown</b> Distribution of love gifts for international competitors in Columbus, Ohio End-of-Show Regional Song: <i>How We Sang Today</i>
	Prep and holding areas for performers	<b>Rooms are listed above - Use as desired</b>	
10:00 PM	<i>Informal Tagging Time</i>	Grand Foyer	
	<b>Sunday, September 21</b>		
8:00 AM	<b>Breakfast</b> (included with Registration Package A)	Grand Ballroom	
9:00 AM	<b>Welcome</b> Song by a medalist quartet	Grand Ballroom	
9:15 AM	<b>Dynasty Class 5:</b> <b>We Rehearsed, Now What?</b> (1 hour)	Grand Ballroom	Take away practical strategies for successfully making individual and group progress between rehearsals.
10:15 AM	Break (15 min.)		
10:30 AM	<b>Dynasty Class 6:</b> <b>Coaching underglass</b> (1 hour): with HCC	Grand Ballroom	All are welcome to watch HCC get coached under glass by Debbie Cleveland.
11:30 AM	Sing: <b>How We Sang Today</b> - Official End to Vocal Fest		Safe Travels Home
	<b>Regional Faculty Breakout Sessions</b>		<b>Class Description</b>
Both	1. Building a Culture of Belonging: Gender-Inclusive Communication (Colleen Christi Willett)	Dover	<i>Participants will delve into the principles of gender-inclusive language, moving beyond awareness to actionable strategies for fostering an environment where all singers feel valued, respected, and empowered.</i>
Both	2. Real Living in Imaginary Circumstances (Alexis DePersia-Norelli)	Florham Park	<i>How to find your way into the storytelling of any song. Come explore ways to bring your authentic self to every song, every character, and every story.</i>
Both	3. GVI (Group Vocal Instruction) (Sky Harris)	Madison	<i>Participants are invited to engage in an interactive group vocal lesson. All are welcome to attend and bring a recording device if desired .</i>
Both	4. Show Planning and Managment (Jeanne Elmuccio)	Chatham	<i>There are so many things to do and remember when putting on a show. This session will review building blocks need to create a manageable plan and build a timeline.</i>
First Session	5. Thrive TOGETHER (Harriette Walters & Evelyn Langenstein)	Livingston	<i>The ESSENTIAL Role of Directors and Membership Teams to Growth &amp; Retention. We will discuss the collaboration of all Leadership in creating that sense of belonging that helps member growth and retention ! It's all about the music &amp; soooo much more . The importance of building a culture of positive growth with a GROWTH MINDSET</i>
Second Session	6. Tag Singing! (Stephanie Ofshinsky)		<i>Learn and sing tags!</i>
Second Session	7. Music Category Q & A (Carolyn Schmidt)	Livingston	A look at how the new music category updates might influence singers choices.
Both	8. Core Values and Long Term Planning (Sabrina Doolittle)	Morristown	Learn what you value and turn those things into a plan! Discover ways to identify and implement core values and goals as an individual, quartet or chorus.