

VocalFest 2024 — Sheraton Parsippany

TIME	ACTIVITY	ROOM	DESCRIPTION
Friday, September 13			
4:00 PM	Registration Opens	Grand Foyer	
5:00 PM	Early Bird Regional Faculty Class (1 hour): Group Vocal Instruction (GVI) with Harriette Walters	Grand Ballroom	Participants are invited to engage in an interactive group vocal lesson. Please bring a recording device (your phone will do!)
5:00 PM	Early Bird Regional Faculty Class (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: Harmonize The World Welcome and Kim Newcomb Class 1 (1 hour): Ear & Interval Training	Grand Ballroom	Develop precise pitch recognition and master musical intervals through engaging exercises and interactive activities, using tools such as solfège syllables and Kodaly hand signs, to sharpen your pitch and interval recognition.
8:15 PM	VocalFest Chorus Rehearsal #1 (45 min): Don't Stop [Kim Newcomb]	Grand Ballroom	Attendees are invited to participate or observe this first rehearsal. Participants are asked to learn Don't Stop in advance. Chorus will perform Saturday night.
8:15 PM	Regional Faculty Class (45 min): Tag Singing! with Stephanie Ofshinsky	Chatham	Learn and sing tags!
9:00-10:00 PM	Novice Quartet Contest!	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	Quartet Chorus Rehearsal #1: I'm Having a Ball [Kat Britt]	Grand Ballroom	All members of registered quartets and the Blue Notes who have learned the song I'm Having a Ball are invited to participate. Chorus will perform Saturday night.
Saturday, September 14			
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	Welcome and Roll Call with Alicia Caron and Evelyn Langenstein Song by a medalist quartet	Grand Ballroom	
9:15 AM	Kim Newcomb Class 2 (1 hour): VOCAL DEVELOPMENT	Grand Ballroom	Enhance your vocal skills with a focus on alignment, breathing, and practical vocal exercises. This class helps singers of all levels improve their range, tone, and overall vocal efficiency.
10:15 AM	Break (15 min)		
10:30 AM	Song by a medalist quartet Kim Newcomb Class 3 (1 hour): MASTERING MUSICAL PRECISION: Synchronization and Tuning Techniques	Grand Ballroom	Fine tune your timing and pitch accuracy through interactive exercises, identifying and problem solving for common ensemble challenges, and exploring harmony accuracy through creative tuning techniques.
11:30 AM	Quartet Chorus Rehearsal #2 (30 min): I'm Having a Ball [Kat Britt]	Grand Ballroom	All members of registered quartets and the Blue Notes who have learned the song I'm Having a Ball are invited to participate. Chorus will perform Saturday night.
12:00 PM	<i>Lunch on your own</i>		
12:00 PM	Team Coordinators Lunch with Jenn Hunter	Grand Ballroom South	All Region 15 Chorus Team Coordinators/Presidents are invited.
12:00 PM	Directors Lunch with Harriette Walters	Grand Ballroom South	All Region 15 Chorus Directors are invited.
1:15 PM	VocalFest Chorus Rehearsal #2: Don't Stop Directed by Kim Newcomb	Grand Ballroom	Attendees are invited to participate or observe. Participants are asked to learn Don't Stop in advance. Chorus will perform Saturday night.
1:15 PM	Regional Faculty Classes (1 hour each - Choose One): 1. Beyond Contest: Picking music for you group (Jean Schoenlank) Denville 2. How to Move your Face & Body (Alexis DePersia-Norelli) Boonton 3. GVI (Group Vocal Instruction) (Harriette Walters) Morristown 4. Section Rehearsals: It's more than learning notes! (Jenn Hunter) Florham 5. Membership Strategies for Everyone (Sky Harris & Evelyn Langenstein) Livingston 6. Tag Singing! (Stephanie Ofshinsky) Chatham	<i>Room assignments next to each class</i>	Regional Faculty Classes (1 hour each - Choose One): 1. Beyond Contest: Picking music for you group (Jean Schoenlank) Denville 2. How to Move your Face & Body (Alexis DePersia-Norelli) Boonton 3. GVI (Group Vocal Instruction) (Harriette Walters) Morristown 4. Section Rehearsals: It's more than learning notes! (Jenn Hunter) Florham 5. Membership Strategies for Everyone (Sky Harris & Evelyn Langenstein) Livingston 6. Tag Singing! (Stephanie Ofshinsky) Chatham
2:15 PM	<i>Break (15 min)</i>		

2:30 PM	Song by a medalist quartet Kim Newcomb Class 4 (1 hour): Coaching Under Glass: Quartets	Grand Ballroom	
3:30 PM	<i>Break (15 min)</i>		
3:45 PM	Regional Faculty Classes (1 hour each - Choose One): 1. Beyond Contest:Picking music for your group (Jean Schoenlank) Denville 2. How to Move your Face & Body (Alexis DePersia-Norelli) Boonton 3. GVI (Group Vocal Instruction) (Katie Blackwood) Morristown 4. Section Rehearsals:It's more than learning notes! (Jenn Hunter) Florham 5. Membership Strategies for Everyone (Sky Harris & Evelyn Langenstein) Livingston 6. Tag Singing! (Stephanie Ofshinsky) Chatham 7. "Is This Music Contestable?" (Jeanne Elmuccio) Dover	<i>Room assignments next to each class</i>	Regional Faculty Classes (1 hour each - Choose One): 1. Beyond Contest:Picking music for your group (Jean Schoenlank) Denville 2. How to Move your Face & Body (Alexis DePersia-Norelli) Boonton 3. GVI (Group Vocal Instruction) (Katie Blackwood) Morristown 4. Section Rehearsals:It's more than learning notes! (Jenn Hunter) Florham 5. Membership Strategies for Everyone (Sky Harris & Evelyn Langenstein) Livingston 6. Tag Singing! (Stephanie Ofshinsky) Chatham 7. "Is This Music Contestable?" (Jeanne Elmuccio) Dover
4:45 PM	<i>Break</i>		
4:45 PM	<i>Riser rehearsals:</i> <i>LOC - 4:50-5:15</i> <i>LOC/SOS Combined - 5:15-5:25</i> <i>SOS - 5:25-5:50</i>	Grand Ballroom	
6:00 PM	Happy Hour	Grand Foyer	Time to mingle before the Regional Dinner and Show. Cash bar available.
7:00 PM	Regional Dinner (included with Registration Packages A, B, and D) and Member of Note and Longevity Awards Recognition	Grand Ballroom	
8:00 PM	Saturday Night Show: Celebration of International Competitors <i>VocalFest Chorus (Don't Stop)</i> <i>Quartet Chorus (I'm Having a Ball)</i> <i>Illuminate - Denville</i> <i>Rosegold Four - Dover</i> <i>Liberty Oak - Florham</i> <i>Yellow Brick Road - Morristown</i> <i>Spirit of Syracuse - No room needed</i> Distribution of love gifts for international competitors in Kansas City End-of-Show Regional Song: <i>How We Sang Today</i>	Grand Ballroom	Saturday Night Show: Celebration of International Competitors <i>VocalFest Chorus (Don't Stop)</i> <i>Quartet Chorus (I'm Having a Ball)</i> <i>Illuminate - Denville</i> <i>Rosegold Four - Dover</i> <i>Liberty Oak - Florham</i> <i>Yellow Brick Road - Morristown</i> <i>Spirit of Syracuse - No room needed</i> Distribution of love gifts for international competitors in Kansas City End-of-Show Regional Song: <i>How We Sang Today</i>
	Prep and holding areas for performers	Rooms are listed above - Use as desired	
10:00 PM	<i>Informal Tagging Time</i>	Grand Foyer	
Sunday, September 15			
8:00 AM	Breakfast (included with Registration Package A)	Grand Ballroom	
9:00 AM	Welcome and Regional Song:	Grand Ballroom	
9:15 AM	Kim Newcomb Class 5: ON THE RISERS WITH Kim Newcomb (1 hour): singing <i>Don't Stop</i> and/or <i>How We Sang Today</i>	Grand Ballroom	All attendees are invited to participate or observe. Those on the risers will engage in warm-ups with Kim Newcomb and learn how she works a song while directing a chorus.
10:15 AM	Official end of VocalFest!		
See you next year: September 19-21, 2025 with Debbie Cleveland and Dynasty!			

	Regional Faculty Breakout Sessions	Class Description
	1. Beyond Contest:Picking music for you group (Jean Schoenlank)	<i>How do you create an effective lineup for your chorus or quartet gig? When is it appropriate to sing a contest uptune or ballad outside of the contest stage? Or a novelty song? What sources can we use to choose music? How and when should we be funny? Or serious? All of these questions and more will be addressed in this class! We'll talk about creating a balanced lineup that's appropriate for the audience in front of you- no matter where that is!</i>
	2. How to Move your Face & Body (Alexis DePersia-Norelli)	<i>As singers we are whole body instruments! Come hang out with Alexis and explore new ways to use yours to tell your musical stories!</i>
	3. GVI (Group Vocal Instruction) (Harriette Walters & Katie Blackwood)	<i>Participants are invited to engage in an interactive group vocal lesson.</i>
	4. Section Rehearsals:It's more than learning notes! (Jenn Hunter)	<i>For section leadership or any member who wants to get more out of section rehearsals. Tips, ideas and techniques.</i>
	5. Membership Strategies for Everyone (Sky Harris & Evelyn Langenstein)	<i>Whether you're looking to bring in new members of all ages, learn new strategies for taking care of long-time or rookie members, or find resources for working with young singers, we've got you covered! Whether you're a membership coordinator, looking to jump start youth programming, or just want to find out how to help members of your chorus feel more at home, join us for some great conversation and great resources!</i>
	6. Tag Singing! (Stephanie Ofshinsky)	<i>Learn and sing tags!</i>
	7. "Is This Music Contestable?" (Jeanne Elmuccio)	<i>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.</i>