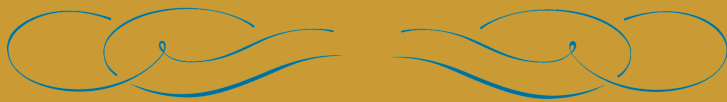




BEL CANTO BOOT CAMP



PROJECTS
AND
INITIATIVES

Visit us at
belcantobootcamp.com

Contact us at
belcantobootcamp@gmail.com

ABOUT BEL CANTO BOOT CAMP

Bel Canto Boot Camp was born during the pandemic when we reached out to singers around the world – singers who had no place and seemingly no reason to sing. We created **The Vaccai Project** – a unique online training course for singers. Just short of two thousand singers from America to South Africa, from Colombia to Russia practiced together for the day when stages would be open to them again and theaters would be filled with audiences. We published *The Vaccai Project* in book form in April 2022.

Now, as the world continues to emerge from Covid-19, Bel Canto Boot Camp strives to support artists in the physical world as we did (and continue to do) virtually. The Vaccai project is now available in book form at Amazon. BCBC recently announced a new partnership with Guild Hall of East Hampton: **The Guild Hall & Bel Canto Boot Camp Resident Artist Series** – a unique training and performance collaboration between operatic superstars, established professional singers, and promising singers still on the verge of an international career. In the summer of 2022 BCBC presented its first in person **training week in New York City**.

BCBC Beyond NYC is a new initiative aimed at reaching singers and teachers in person both nationally and internationally. We are committed to decentralizing resources in the training of the unamplified voice. Our goal is to recreate residency programs similar to the one in East Hampton to train more singers and to train them in their communities where we can reach more singers and where we can help local organizations cultivate local audiences to support local artists.



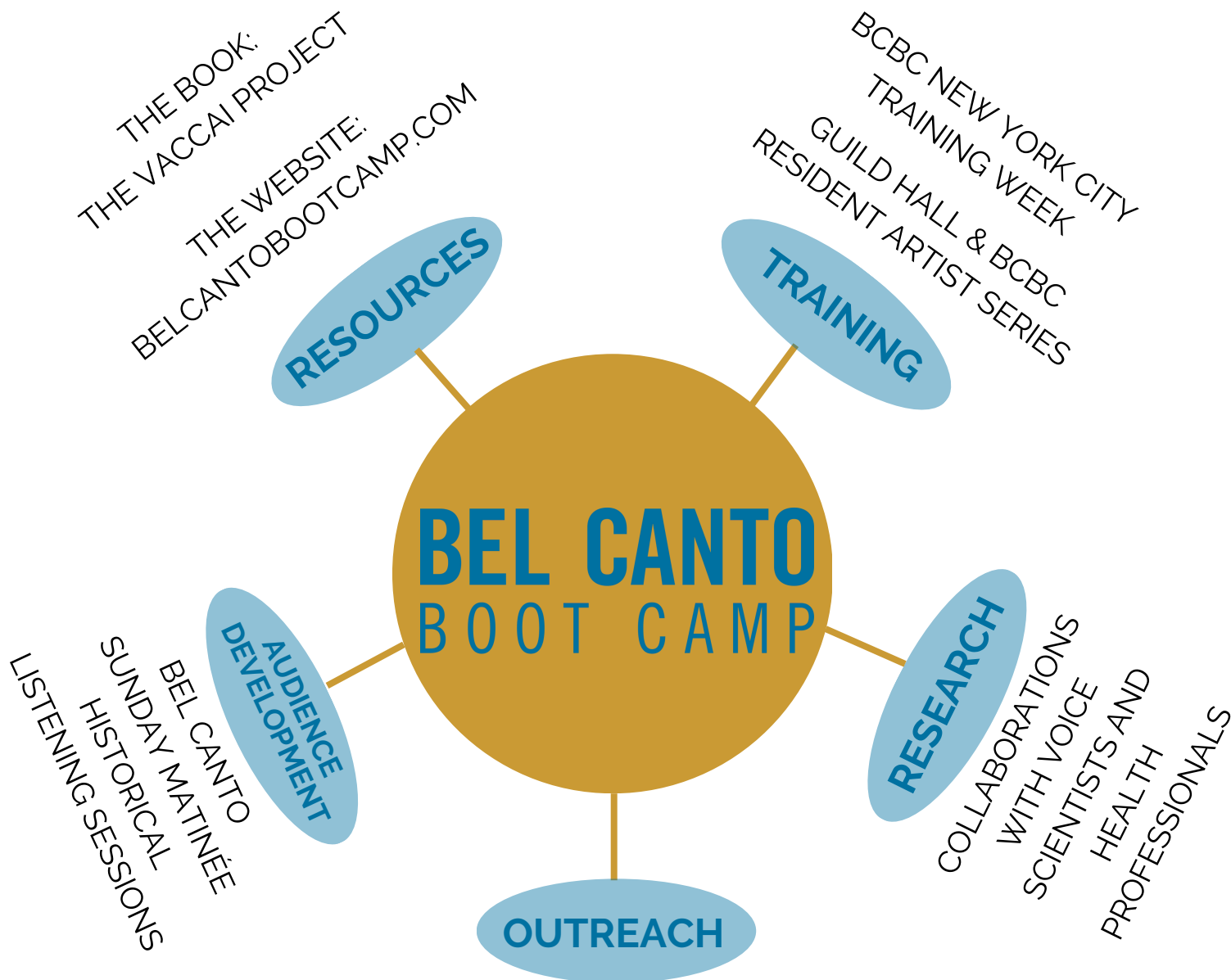
Rachelle Jonck received her musical training at the Conservatory of the University of Stellenbosch. In her native country she was awarded a FNB/Vita award for her contribution to opera in South Africa. In 1998 Ms Jonck received the Nederburg Opera Prize – South Africa's premier opera award. Rachelle moved to New York City as Head Vocal Coach and Assistant Conductor of Bel Canto at Caramoor. Her private coaching studio includes established professionals whose careers take them to the largest opera houses of the world, and younger singers still on the verge of a professional career. Her master class topics, while related to her main study field of bel canto, explore the wider application of the bel canto way of singing.



Derrick Goff is an alumnus of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and has returned at the MET music staff. He has enjoyed many years of collaboration at Teatro Nuovo, a continuation of the young artist program of Bel Canto at Caramoor, where he is resident as a coach, chorus master, and Italian teacher. In addition to his work as a pianist, coach, and conductor, Derrick holds degrees in organ and voice from Westminster Choir College.

BEL CANTO BOOT CAMP

OVERVIEW OF OUR INITIATIVES



OUR WEB PRESENCE BELCANTOBOOTCAMP.COM

LEGATO AND REPEATED NOTES

How do you feel about throwing some registration in this mix?
Let's go for it!!

How about one more exercise at the end...
Do it!!!

And the other way?
(Ciao! ga! la!)

BEHOLD THE MIGHTY APPROGIATURA ORNAMENT CHART

BEHOLD!
THE MIGHTY APPROGIATURA

Vocal units of pitches

(Cant. 15) *apropiatura* *scandali* *terribile cantabile* *scandalo*

(Cant. 16) *scandali* *terribile cantabile* *scandalo*

(Cant. 17) *scandali* *terribile cantabile* *scandalo*

(Cant. 18) *scandali* *terribile cantabile* *scandalo*

LARYNGEAL REGISTRATION EXERCISES: YODEL/SWITCH

Do you have control of your registration? Can you enter chest in a dynamic of your choice? Or are you going "soft" in there? Are you avoiding the issue all together by staying in head voice which sounds weak compared to the rest of the phrase no matter how hard you try?

There are two laryngeal registers - most people call them chest voice and head voice. The Greeks among us use the terms thyroaryngeal dominance and cricothyroid dominance.

Blending of the registers means being able to move smoothly between the two biological registers, NOT creating a third one. You cannot blend two things if you don't know what they are! So let's take some more steps to clarify them. Don't be so afraid! Nobody will die if we can hear the transition! Call it the speaking register if chest voice you. It is as good a description as any. Trick is not to associate chest voice only with singing loudly.

The goal is calm, unpressed chest voice in medium to soft dynamic.

Exercises that clarify the laryngeal registration switches are a good way to define the two things you are "mixing" on a day to day basis. Our Come YODEL with me! and Come SWITCH with me! exercises have the same purpose as the classic ones like Vianini: to exercise chest voice up to F4, while also training head voice down to C4. Vianini (like all the bel canto instructors) is clear that F4 is the laryngeal passaggio - this was not a question of opinion. Nor was it proclaimed that "all voices are different". Yes, they are, but there is not a technique for each voice!

As we have seen elsewhere the old treatises do not distinguish between male and female voices when it comes to the F4 laryngeal passaggio. The human voice moves from chest to head dominance naturally in the vicinity of this pitch and bel canto training teaches the professional singer to achieve this smoothly and elegantly.

Soprano and mezzo have to traverse this pivot point ALL THE TIME, and the old divas did so masterfully. While tenors and baritone/basses in the modern world sing in chest dominant production only, laryngeal registration exercises ("flipping between chest and falsetto") builds dynamic possibilities below, through, and above the passaggio - remember that dynamics are a result of registration. To clarify to sing louder, a singer adds "threads" of chest to the mix of any note - whether it is chest dominant or not. To sing softer, a singer adds "threads" of head to the mix of any note - whether head-dominant or not.

COLORATURA EXERCISE: FLY

Come FLY with me!

Exercises on THREE notes

Exercises on FOUR notes

Practice rhythmic: FLY!

Then: FLY!

- essays on core skill topics
- historically inspired exercises
- Italian diction and libretto
- subscribers have access to additional resources



- compilations of historical voices
- Bel Canto Sunday Matinée - a weekly listening salon for singers and audience alike



- easily accessible PDFs of often used historical treatises
- blog discussing books and articles about singing

Hai già vinta la causa

IL CONTE - LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

subject	Hai già vinta la causa! cosa sento.
verb	In qual laccio io cadea! perdisti! io voglio
object	Di tal modo punirti! a piacer mio
adjective	La sentenza sarà... ma s'ei pagasse
adverb	La vecchia pretendente?
predicate noun	Pagarla! in qual maniera!... e poi v'è Antonio
adv. or adj.	Che a un incognito Figaro ricusa
prepositional phrase	Di dare una nipote in matrimonio,
interjection	Coltivando l'orgoglio
conjunction	Di questo mentecatto...
interrogative	Tutto giova a un raggirio... il colpo è fatto
pronoun	

trappasso remoto

passato remoto

trappasso prossimo

imperfetto

passato prossimo

presente

futuro anteriore

futuro semplice

congiuntiva

congiuntiva

congiuntiva condizionale

imperativo

congiuntiva condizionale

Hai già vinta la causa!

In qual laccio io cadea!

ma s'ei pagasse

La vecchia pretendente?

Pagarla? in qual maniera!

Che all'incognito Figaro ricusa

Di dare una nipote in matrimonio,

Coltivando l'orgoglio

Di questo mentecatto...

Tutto giova a un raggirio... il colpo è fatto.

participio gerundio infinito

participio gerundio infinito

a piacer mio
La sentenza sarà...

predicates follow linking verbs like essere, parere

in modern Italian it would be hai già vinto but in poetic Italian sometimes we see the past participle agree with causa - vinta

BEL CANTO BOOT CAMP

THE FUTURE: BCBC seeks to expand subscriber base and reduce monthly fee (currently set at \$13.99) or even abolish membership as we grow ever and ever closer to making all resources available to all who wish to learn.

BOOK: THE VACCAI PROJECT

OUR SIGNATURE COURSE IN PUBLISHED FORM

**PORTLAND
OPERA**



The College of
St. Scholastica



Northwestern
University



**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**



University of Colorado Boulder



Mizzou
University of Missouri



**BUTLER
UNIVERSITY**

**WORLDWIDE
DISTRIBUTION:**
Sold on Amazon in:

Canada
France
Germany
The Netherlands
Poland
United States
United Kingdom

The Vaccai Project
is in use or has been
presented at:



Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
IVUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT

**CAPE TOWN
OPERA**

STELLENBOSCH



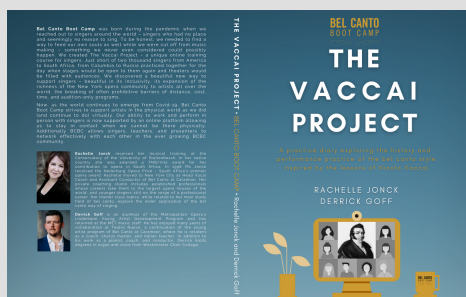
NWU
NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY
NOROESIES UNIVERSITEIT
YUNIBESITHI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRAMA



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



**Tshwane University
of Technology**
We empower people



THE FUTURE: Our goal is to make the book more accessible to students by reducing the purchase price – currently commercially available for \$69.95 and available from us directly at \$50.00 for institutions.

**BEL CANTO
BOOT CAMP**

BEL CANTO BOOT CAMP

NEW YORK CITY SUMMER TRAINING WEEK

Advance preparation for Guild Hall & BCBC Resident Artist Series

To make a real difference in singers' approach to learning, coaching, rehearsing, and performing, we invite resident artists to a week of training in NYC where we introduce key concepts in preparation for our work in East Hampton at no cost to them.

BCBC also invites prospective Guild Hall resident artists to the NY training week at no cost to them to investigate their suitability for East Hampton residencies.

Access to low cost in person training for BCBC members and non-members

BCBC members are invited to join Guild Hall Resident Artists in training and performance during the New York City training week. Singers who cannot afford the nominal fee are invited to apply for scholarships.

If all available positions are not filled with members, BCBC makes slots available to non-members at the same low or no cost rates.



At BCBC there is no judgment - only collaboration. The goal is simply to make beautiful music using the skills and perspectives of everyone in the room. I made more progress in two weeks of daily work with Derrick and Rachelle than I had in the entire year prior - not least of all because my mindset towards preparation changed. I came to coachings eager to dive in and make mistakes, trusting my technique and forging ahead unafraid of using my voice in creative ways to fully explore the musicality and expression of Donizetti's work. I now look at my singing as pre-BCBC and post-BCBC.

Michael Leyte-Vidal, bass-baritone

THE FUTURE: Expand New York training week to two weeks and seek to provide housing by finding sponsorship and/or partnerships with NY organizations.

RESIDENT ARTIST SERIES AT GUILD HALL OF EAST HAMPTON

The Guild Hall & Bel Canto Boot Camp Resident Artist Program awards paid residencies in the Hamptons to emerging artists identified by an application and audition process. Guest artists at the height of international singing careers are invited to join resident artists as both mentors in masterclasses and colleagues in concerts – a unique training and performance collaboration between operatic superstars, established professional singers, and promising singers still on the verge of an international career.

The Guild Hall & BCBC Resident Artist Series in East Hampton is currently funded by the **V. Atkins Foundation** via Guild Hall. This allows BCBC to commit internal resources to day to day expenses and BCBC and beyond NYC initiatives.



There is no better feeling than having the opportunity to work in detail on challenging repertoire and then perform it for a safe, inviting and gracious audience. The level of coaching and preparation is second to none at Bel Canto Boot Camp and it is the perfect way for a singer to move to that next level in their career.

Jack Swanson

Bel Canto Boot Camp is **absolutely unique** in its approach to singing as an art form. I have rarely come across teachers and performers who can so succinctly and successfully teach the tenets of Bel Canto. **The Guild Hall & BCBC Resident Artist Series is an original concept to provide crucial coaching and development for young artists to springboard their careers.**

Michael Spyres



THE FUTURE: BCBC plans to partner with sponsors and organizations to establish paid residencies for singers based on the Guild Hall model in South Africa, Latin-America and Europe.

BEL CANTO BOOT CAMP

BEYOND NEW YORK CITY

National teaching and audition tours

BCBC seeks to provide support to all schools and organizations who reach out to us. We ask organizations to pay what they can towards our travel, housing and faculty hours and BCBC covers the shortfall.



International Outreach

BCBC completed two successful teaching and audition tours to South Africa in 2022. These trips were sponsored in full by BCBC. A separate pamphlet is available detailing this portion of our work.



I had the most beautiful and exhilarating experience with BCBC, too many light bulb moments to mention here. Your teachings, patience and expertise are exactly what is needed to ensure we all reach and realize our untapped potential. Thank you so much, **I wish we had 6 months with you, but I guess that too would've been too short!** I hope we'll work together again.

Tylor Lamani



THE FUTURE: BCBC plans trips to Latin-America including Puerto Rico and Mexico in 2023/2024. National travel plans include southern California and a teaching/audition tour of HBCU's.

BEL CANTO SUNDAY MATINÉES

BRINGING ARTISTS AND AUDIENCES TOGETHER

The Bel Canto Boot Camp Matinee series, established in the spring of 2020, is an education initiative **for the benefit of artists and audiences alike**. In every session, we explore aspects of the **rich recorded history** of musicmaking, with **an emphasis on singers of the past**. The earliest operatic recordings, dating back as far as 1889, provide modern listeners with a glimpse of vocal technique and musical taste as it existed in generations of performers whose stylistic roots lie in the era of the great operatic compositions. The earliest of these singers never knew of the existence of the microphone or electronically amplified musical reproduction. By listening to artists such as Lilli Lehmann, Mattia Battistini, Adelina Patti, we hear the true bel canto approach. Later artists, like Caruso, Ponselle, Muzio, Martinelli and Ruffo, show the influence of changing styles and developing technological possibilities on singers as the 20th Century progressed. The recent emergence of streaming and YouTube has made hundreds of these recordings available to all.

BCBC Matinees provide a curated guide to these treasures.

How wonderful to be in a room with **so much passion**. I'm really a neophyte when it comes to opera, but I do love it! **Just hearing those old recordings sent shivers up my spine**. Thank YOU!

Sunday Matinée participant.



Missouri-born tenor **Steven Tharp's** operatic credits include performances with the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Netherlands Opera, among many other houses. Handel and Mozart are well represented in Mr. Tharp's repertoire of more than 60 operatic parts, and his keen interest in 18th- and early 19th-century opera has led to many roles in operas of Gluck, Haydn, Scarlatti, Conti, and others. In concert, Mr. Tharp has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Cleveland Orchestra, among others. His concert repertoire includes the Bach, Mozart, Handel, and Haydn masterpieces of the 18th and 19th century and extends to Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*, Schönberg's *Gurre-Lieder*, the Verdi Requiem, and Britten's *War Requiem*. A dedicated song recitalist, Mr. Tharp has appeared at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, the 92nd Street Y, Carnegie's Weill Hall, venues in Europe, Japan, and South America. His interest in musical theater and cabaret led to his appearance in *3 Tenors in Search of an Act* in a sold-out run at Don't Tell Mama in New York. Steven has recorded for Decca, Delos, Newport, Albany and Naxos, earning a Grammy Award nomination. He has also served as stage director for the Manhattan School of Music and for Caramoor. He lives in Columbia, Missouri with his adorable Westie, Hector, and is Associate Professor of Voice at the University of Missouri.

THE FUTURE: BCBC plans to expand Bel Canto Sunday Matinée to a podcast which will allow a larger audience to access this essential content at their leisure.

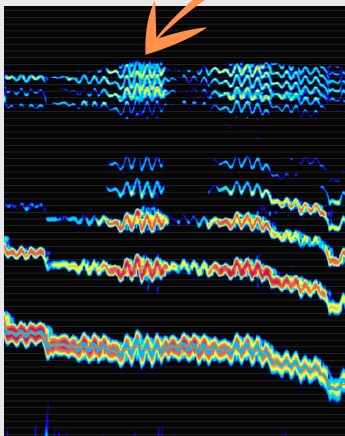
BEL CANTO BOOT CAMP

ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

Bel Canto Boot Camp counts amongst its members and supporters a wide variety of **educators, voice scientists and medical professionals**. While our work is based in history, we engage with those in the wide unamplified voice community to discover how history can be explained by science. Most singers do better when technique is de-mystified by some simple facts that can easily be applied in practice. BCBC has hosted writers **Conrad L. Osborne, Kenneth Bozeman**, and **Will Crutchfield** in exploration of the connection (or sometimes lack thereof) between the past and the present as we look to the future.

Current pending projects include the development of presentation master classes which will seek to explore the **training of laryngeal function in the bel canto repertoire**. This work is of interest to those in the medical field specializing in recovery after vocal trauma and surgery and we are looking forward to engage with leaders in that field in 2023

auditory roughness



This is a spectrogram representing a soprano switching between head-dominant /u/ on E ♭ 4 and chest-dominant /a/ on the same pitch with the goal of the same dynamic. Scan the QR code to listen.



What you see is an increase in **auditory roughness** when she is in chest voice – partials close to each other are boosted.

from The Vaccai Project

THE FUTURE: BCBC is constantly reaching out to potential research partners to explore the highly efficient and vocally healthy historical bel canto technique with newly available scientific resources.

GLOBAL MUSICAL LITERACY

A LONG TERM DREAM TO EMPOWER SINGERS AND AUDIENCES

Bel Canto Boot Camp believes that the future of the arts depends on the musical literacy of its audience as much as it does on the education of its practitioners.

Music is a language and music notation is its alphabet. The **increasing global absence of music education in our schools** leads to audiences which experience performances (and recordings) without the ability to participate in music making themselves. Moreover, such audiences are dwindling. Even more alarming is the number of would-be singers who are hampered by lack of musicianship skills originating in lack of proficiency in reading music notation.

Most programs teaching music notation are focused on **children learning musical instruments** - and often at a very early age. This **non-inclusive model** depends on the presence of a piano, a violin, a flute - most often attached to the affluence of the family. Singers who were not trained as instrumentalists at an early age tend to lag behind in music school and never truly catch up with their instrumental peers. The simple truth is that a singer cannot start rigorous training until after puberty - we owe it to them to right this wrong.

BCBC seeks partners interested in joining us in developing **free online musical literacy programs** geared towards young adults and adults based on the use of the unamplified voice as the vehicle for putting sound to symbol. **Why not use the instrument we all have?**

The human voice was always the gateway to musical literacy and participation. It is truly the mother of all instruments. Instrumentalists strive to make their instruments "sing" every day and while the best of the best achieve this, nothing truly compares with the beauty and intimacy of the unamplified voice.

Today scores are as freely available online as recordings. Buying sheet music used to be impossibly expensive. Why not celebrate the availability of musical texts by teaching the world to read them?



BEL CANTO
BOOT CAMP

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
HOW TO SUPPORT BEL CANTO BOOT CAMP
AND OUR VARIOUS INITIATIVES
CONTACT US AT
BELCANTOBOOTCAMP@GMAIL.COM

BECOME A MEMBER AT
BELCANTOBOOTCAMP.COM

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
AND HELP US REACH SINGERS
AND AUDIENCES ACROSS THE GLOBE



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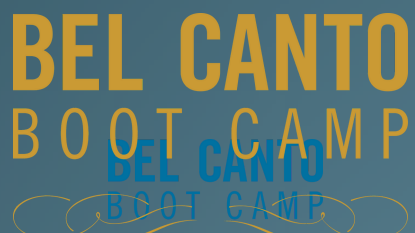


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THANK YOU FOR MAKING WHAT WE DO POSSIBLE



THANK YOU FOR MAKING WHAT WE DO POSSIBLE

BEL CANTO
BOOT CAMP

TESTIMONIALS

CAPE TOWN OPERA

I had the most beautiful and exhilarating experience with BCBC, too many light bulb moments to mention here. **Your teachings, patience and expertise are exactly what is needed to ensure we all reach and realize our untapped potential.** Thank you so much, I wish we had 6 months with you, but I guess that too would've been too short! I hope we'll work together again.

Tylor Lamani

BCBC has completely changed my view on how to approach singing and learning music, especially in Italian. Rachelle and Derrick have a contagious passion for the art of Bel Canto and in the week we spent together I gained a deep appreciation for the art of singing in Italian. **I will be debuting my first major role with Cape Town opera (Belcore in *L'elisir d'amore*), and after working with them I feel confident in my preparation.** I cannot wait to work with them again and am so grateful for what they are doing for opera singers.

Van Wyk Venter

I gained so much knowledge in the coaching and master classes presented by Bel Canto Boot Camp in Cape Town. I believe that this training is crucial for all singers and musicians. **I believe that classical musicians in South Africa and all around the world should experience these classes, as it will broaden their knowledge and their technique.** Thank you so much to Rachelle and Derrick for enriching our musical journey.

Danielle Speckman

No amount of words can express how thankful I am to you for investing in me. **Thank you for showing me how resilient I am as a singer - even when I doubt my own abilities.** Thank you for teaching me my worth as a singer and for pushing me to fall in love with how different and amazing my instrument is. Thank for making me fall in love with getting "Back to Basics." **The world needs more teaching like yours!**

Brittany Smith

Thank you so much for the opportunity to work with you again! **Your work helps me to grow and understand both my voice and the material I sing.**

Rueben Mbonambi

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN WHERE WE ARE GOING

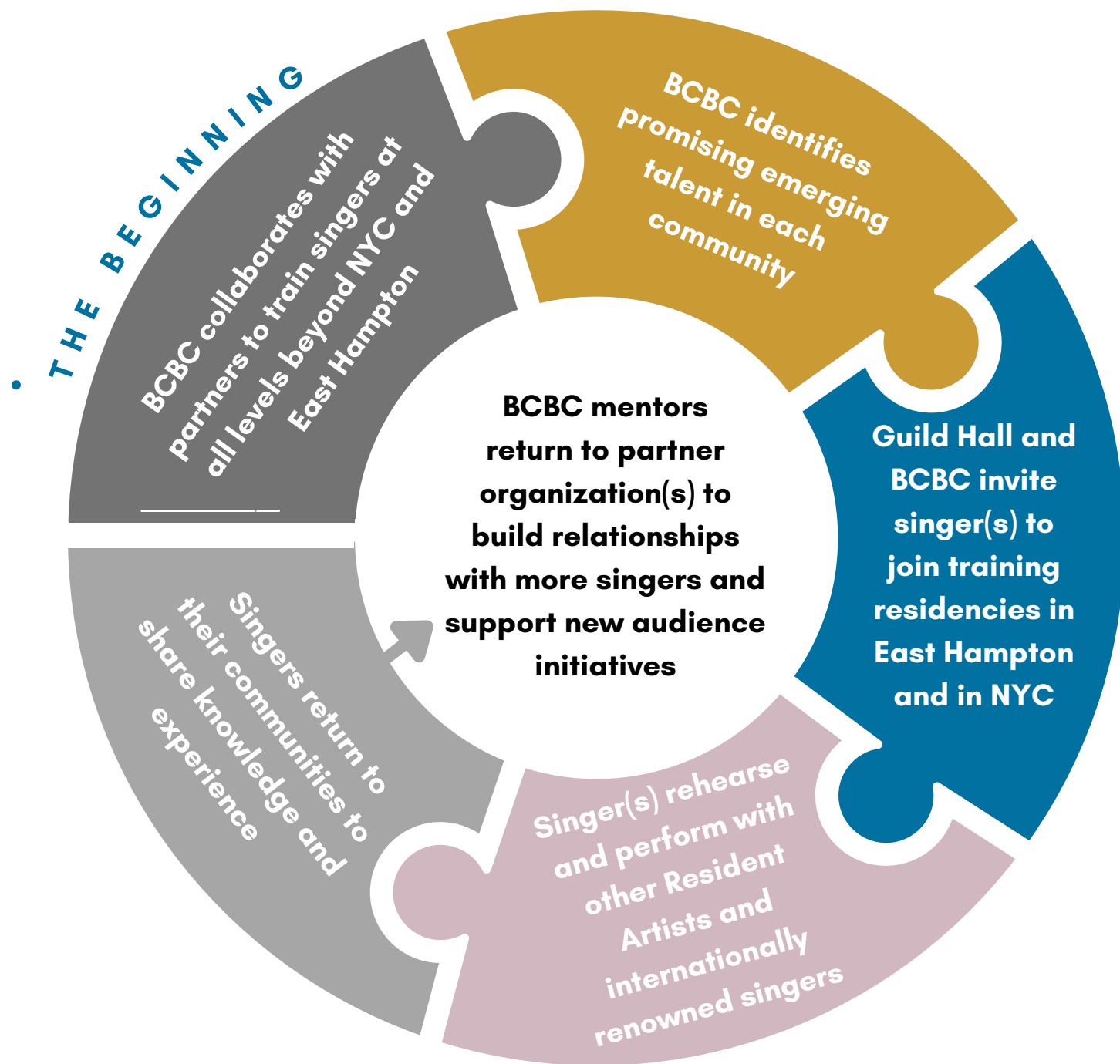
The first Bel Canto Boot Camp beyond NYC collaboration was with **Cape Town Opera** in January 2022. It prompted a **return to South Africa** in August 2022 during which BCBC visited schools around the country.

This launch project inspires **BCBC Beyond NYC in 2023 - work and audition trips to Mexico and Puerto Rico.**



DRAWING THE CIRCLE WIDER STILL

BUILDING ON THE CAPE TOWN MODEL



Future plans to build upon the great success of our continued relationships in South Africa include:

Latin America in 2023

Historically Black Colleges and Universities in 2024

BEL CANTO
BOOT CAMP

SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES VISITED IN 2022

University of Pretoria

Lecture: Legato and Language
Master Class
Auditions for Guild Hall & BCBC
Resident Artist Series
BCBC Boot Camp Live:
Ornamentation



North-West University

Potchefstroom

Auditions for Guild Hall & BCBC
Resident Artist Series
Two Master Classes
Lecture/Demonstration:
Ornamentation

Tshwane University of Technology

Master Class
Auditions for Guild Hall & BCBC
Resident Artist Series



Stellenbosch University

Master Class
Lecture/Demonstration: Legato and
Laryngeal Registration
Auditions for Guild Hall & BCBC
Resident Artist Series
BCBC Boot Camp Live:
Recitative - The Italian Libretto



BEL CANTO
BOOT CAMP

*BCBC's work in South Africa in 2022
was generously sponsored by Mrs.
Kathy Rayner, Nicholas Taylor and
Dan Langley, and Google*

SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENTERS VISITED IN 2022

Cape Town Opera

- Preparation of cast and covers for *L'elisir d'amore*, the Judith Neilson Touring Production of Cape Town Opera, appearing in three South African cities
- Delivery of complimentary copies of our book, **The**

Vaccai Project

- BCBC Boot Camps Live: Coloratura, Recitative: From Libretto to Score



Bel Canto Boot Camp met with several other local and national presenters during the August 2022 trip. The goals were to gain insight in ways BCBC can serve the South African singing community going forward and to explore collaboration on two specific proposed BCBC led projects:

- A residency program in South Africa modeled on the successful Guild Hall & BCBC Resident Artist Program
- A long term project to deliver musical literacy courses for adults free of charge online using the unamplified human voice as instrument of instruction.



**BEL CANTO
BOOT CAMP**

EXPANDING OUR WORK SOUTH AFRICA 2023

BCBC seeks to partner with organizations and schools to present a residency program in South Africa modeled on the Guild Hall & BCBC Resident Artist program.

The Guild Hall & BCBC Resident Artist Series East Hampton, NY

The Guild Hall & BCBC Resident Artist Program offers singers individualized training with BCBC coaches, providing time and space for role/audition preparation and scene/recital study.

Guest artists at the height of international singing careers are invited to join resident artists as both mentors in masterclasses and colleagues in concerts – a unique training and performance collaboration between operatic superstars, established professional singers, and promising singers still on the verge of an international career. Internationally renowned sopranos Lisette Oropesa and Latonia Moore join the program in upcoming seasons.

The Guild Hall & BCBC Resident Artist program is generously funded by the V. Atkins Foundation.



Guild Hall & Bel Canto Boot Camp Resident Artist Series, The Potions of Love: Bel Canto Arias and Ensembles, at St. Lukes Episcopal Church in East Hampton, NY, July 20, 2022. Photo: Jessica Dalene Photography

The **SEEKING SPONSORSHIP** & BCBC Resident Artist Series South Africa

January launch week and fundraiser

BCBC sponsors a week of instruction in Cape Town between 16 and 21 January resulting in a concert to raise awareness and funds for a full residency program in August or September

The South African Residency

BCBC seeks to identify sponsors to provide

- housing for 7 - 10 singers for 7 - 10 days
- two rehearsal spaces with piano
- a concert venue for end of residency concert with piano or orchestra
- honorariums in the amount of R10 000 per participant
- travel between participants' home within South Africa and residency
- sponsorship of internationally renowned singer to collaborate with resident artists (optional)



Guild Hall & Bel Canto Boot Camp Resident Artist Series, The Potions of Love: Bel Canto Arias and Ensembles, at St. Lukes Episcopal Church in East Hampton, NY, July 20, 2022. Photo: Jessica Dalene Photography

BEL CANTO
BOOT CAMP

TESTIMONIALS

GUILD HALL & BCBC RESIDENT ARTIST SERIES

Rachelle and Derrick are some of the most informed and scholarly artists I have learned from, but what comes through most while working with them is their compassion. Our instruments live within us and it can be challenging to separate technical critique from personal critique. For many singers who have gone through conservatory their experience leaves them feeling constantly scrutinized and often devalued. **At BCBC there is no judgment - only collaboration.** The goal is simply to make beautiful music using the skills and perspectives of everyone in the room. I made more progress in two weeks of daily work with Derrick and Rachelle than I had in the entire year prior - not least of all because my mindset towards preparation changed. I came to coachings eager to dive in and make mistakes, trusting my technique and forging ahead unafraid of using my voice in creative ways to fully explore the musicality and expression of Donizetti's work. I now look at my singing as pre-BCBC and post-BCBC.

Michael Leyte-Vidal

The Guild Hall and BCBC residency was truly one of the most detailed and fruitful programs I have ever had the pleasure of participating in. With their dedication to detailed work and true collaboration, **Derrick and Rachelle have created a very accessible program that will benefit any singer that is lucky enough to participate.**

Juan Hernández

It's hard to sum up my feelings about Rachelle and Derrick, and of course BCBC. It was a pleasure to spend the week with them and my colleagues exploring the fundamentals of singing and their application to such stunning repertoire. **After coaching with them, I feel empowered and invigorated to tackle new repertoire.** Their approach, founded on principles set forth by some of opera's greatest teachers, singers, and composers, allows the singer to reexamine their voice through an entirely different lens. Derrick and Rachelle are a breath of fresh air, always supportive and insightful, **they speak 'singer' and just get us!** I know first hand their passion for singing and the human voice - and it shows! I am incredibly grateful to continue learning from them, and **I am a better equipped and more knowledgeable singer because of their hard work.**

Derrek Stark

Rachelle and Derrick through BCBC are revolutionizing music education in the style of bel canto with unparalleled energy and expertise. They demystify the core concepts of the bel canto style making it approachable for any level of singer. **I find their work most fascinating and exciting as it applies to the professional level singer, helping them unlock their musical imagination by giving them the tools to do so -- within the structure they provide there are infinite possibilities. I have been the beneficiary of this empowerment firsthand, and it is nothing that I have seen offered in all my years of musical education.** There is no question that they deserve every ounce of support given to them!

Patricia Westley

TESTIMONIALS

UNIVERSITIES

Bel Canto Boot Camp master classes were some of the best masterclasses I have ever experienced. **It was both inviting and informative. I learned not only when I was the one on stage singing, but also when other students were working.** They helped me to think about my future in singing – I can make it if I can work everyday to achieve the greatness I can imagine.

Calvin Mofokeng

The first and foremost thing that impressed me was how you guys made every singer at home. I learned how the breath projects my voice. It was a wonderful experience.

Goabaone Tiragalo Molemane

The BCBC classes were very well presented with great skill and understanding. The students were inspired by the logic of explanation of Bel Canto singing aspects. **What impressed me most was the personal touch to every individual student's vocal abilities that were adhered to. The students and myself found it a very uplifting presentation.** Furthermore the students are still excited about the classes and can still remember what was portrayed. They try to apply what they had learned from participating or just watching. I do hope that they get the opportunity to working with the skilled musicians from BCBC soon in the near future. These classes were excellent at undergrad level as well as for more advanced students. Lastly it was great fun and learning experience.

Dr. Antoinette Olivier, lecturer

It was really interesting to learn how to make use of chest voice and when to use it. **I actually had fun singing the fast passages** and the facilitators were kind.

Sisikelwe Mngenela

We would love to get them back to South Africa again because of the limited time we had. **The changes that occurred in our voices in a short space of time made me wonder what would happen to the voices if we have more time with them.**

Khayakazi Madlala

GLOBAL MUSICAL LITERACY

A LONG TERM DREAM TO EMPOWER SINGERS AND AUDIENCES

Bel Canto Boot Camp believes that the future of the arts depends on the musical literacy of its audience as much as it does on the education of its practitioners.

Music is a language and music notation is its alphabet. The **increasing global absence of music education in our schools** leads to audiences which experience performances (and recordings) without the ability to participate in music making themselves. Moreover, such audiences are dwindling. Even more alarming is the number of would-be singers who are hampered by lack of musicianship skills originating in lack of proficiency in reading music notation.

Most programs teaching music notation are focused on **children learning musical instruments** - and often at a very early age. This **non-inclusive model** depends on the presence of a piano, a violin, a flute - most often attached to the affluence of the family. Singers who were not trained as instrumentalists at an early age tend to lag behind in music school and never truly catch up with their instrumental peers. The simple truth is that a singer cannot start rigorous training until after puberty - we owe it to them to right this wrong.

BCBC seeks partners interested in joining us in developing **free online musical literacy programs** geared towards young adults and adults based on the use of the unamplified voice as the vehicle for putting sound to symbol. **Why not use the instrument we all have?**

The human voice was always the gateway to musical literacy and participation. It is truly the mother of all instruments. Instrumentalists strive to make their instruments "sing" every day and while the best of the best achieve this, nothing truly compares with the beauty and intimacy of the unamplified voice.

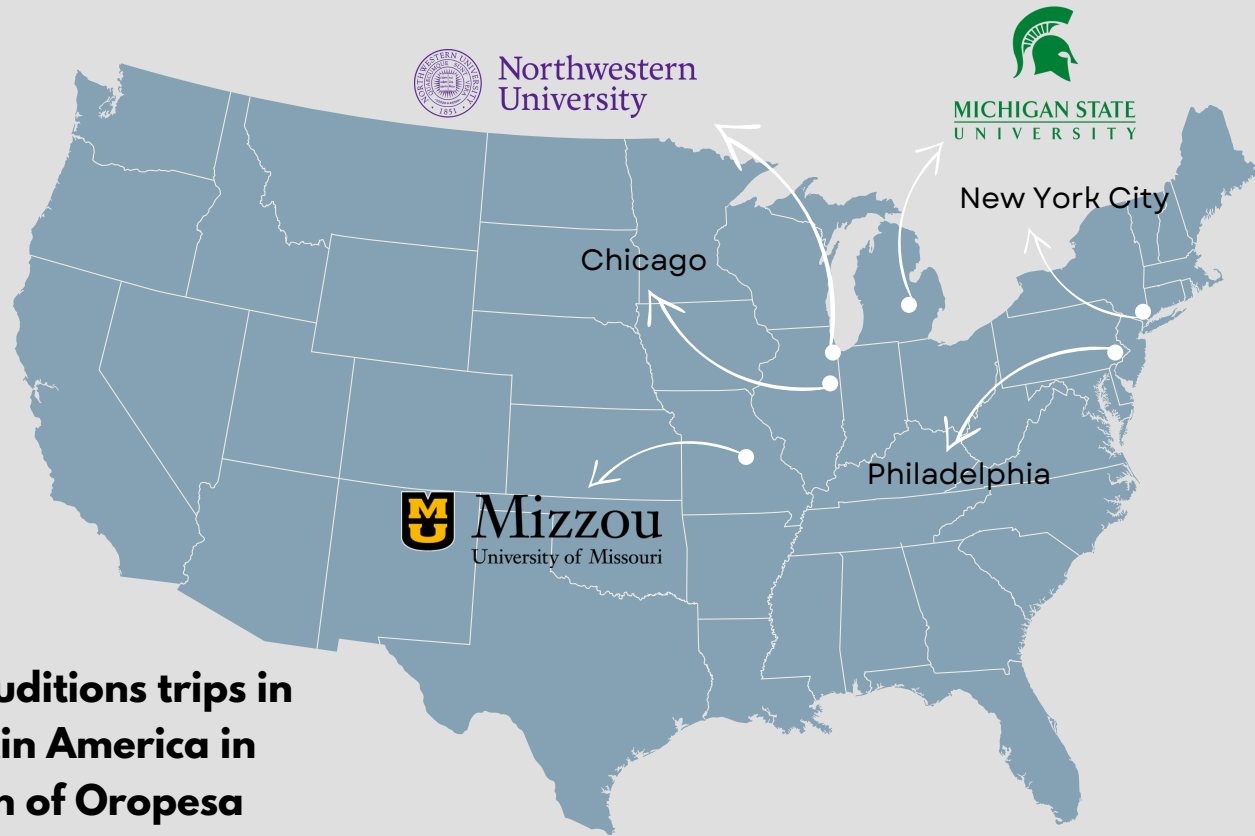
Today scores are as freely available online as recordings. Buying sheet music used to be impossibly expensive. Why not celebrate the availability of musical texts by teaching the world to read them?



BEL CANTO
BOOT CAMP

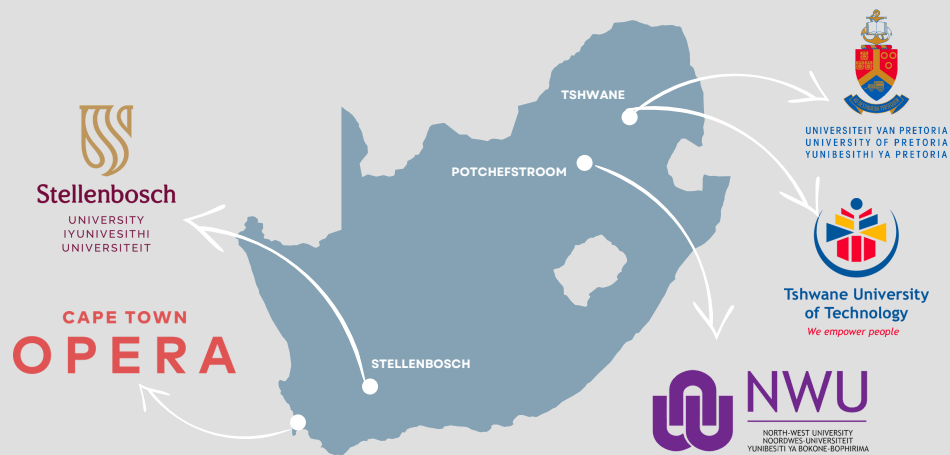
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AUDITIONS

ENSURING THAT THE GUILD HALL &
BCBC RESIDENCY ARTIST PROGRAM IS INCLUSIVE



**BCBC plans auditions trips in
2023 to Latin America in
anticipation of Oropesa
residency**

**BCBC plans auditions trips in
2023/4 to Historically Black
Colleges and Universities
(HBCU) in anticipation of
Latonia Moore residency**



Access to fair auditions is paramount in Guild Hall and BCBC's mission
to make education available to create an inclusive and equitable
residency program.