



December 29th, 2020

Dear CT Northern Region Musician,



Mr. James D. Niblock DMA:

Thank you for your hard work and dedication in preparing an audition for the CMEA Northern Region Choral Ensemble! Your commitment and dedication shines even stronger as you navigate with professional perseverance during this pandemic. Although we can not hold a traditional festival this year, there will be the opportunity to participate in a virtual workshop on Saturday, January 16th at 2:30pm.

This vocal workshop will be led by **Dr. James D. Niblock**, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Allegheny College. He leads Allegheny's choral ensembles and provides instruction and support in the area of applied vocal studies. Additionally, he has taught courses in music theory, history, and appreciation and has served as co-leader for Allegheny's experiential learning seminar in Italy. He regularly teaches a multi-disciplinary science course about the human voice, as well as a writing and public speaking seminar titled *Music & Comedy*. He was the 2019 recipient of Allegheny's Thoburn Award for Excellence in Teaching. He holds degrees from the University of Connecticut, Binghamton University, and Allegheny College.

An active professional on several fronts, Dr. Niblock has been engaged as a singer, clinician, and conductor throughout the US as well as in Russia, New Zealand, England, and Spain. He lives in Cochranton, Pennsylvania, with his wife Carol and their three children: Benjamin, Peter and Madeleine.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK: BUILDING UP VOICES THROUGH MIND AND BODY: Join us for an afternoon workshop to develop your vocal fitness and singing skill! The sound of your voice grows out of a physical, flesh-and-blood system that can be stretched and strengthened through exercise. In a similar way, your musical mind can be improved - thoughtful and constructive vocal habits can help you to train and trust your voice, and to be a relaxed singer. These two parallel "rails" of physical and mental ability keep you on the right track to do your best singing. In this brief mid-winter workshop, Dr. Niblock will focus on essential abilities that high school and college singers should strive to build and maintain. Together, we'll work quickly to identify goals that matter for every singer and examine ways to improve auditions, performances and enjoyment through exercises and drills that build proficiency.

PREPARATION & EQUIPMENT: This workshop will be participatory. Please select a space where you can sing and be sure to warm up in advance.

WORKSHOP DRESS: Please be sure to dress professionally for this virtual workshop. “Business casual” is recommended. Do follow your school’s dress code.

LINK: The workshop link will be sent to your director by Thursday, January 14th.

If you have any questions, please email me in advance of the workshop.

Musically Yours,

Danielle Abucewicz
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Bristol Public Schools
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