

**Course Title:**

THE MUSICAL AUDITION /

Approaches to song preparation and presentation

Level:

Beginner - Experienced. (All levels of experience welcome.)

Instructor:

Craig T. Raisner

Tuition:

\$75

Course Description:

In this course we'll examine the anatomy of a song using techniques originally developed by David Craig and Oscar Kosarin to explore the lyric as story to find its underlying subtext as relates to the performer (irrespective of the show). Although not specifically geared to developing one's physical "instrument" or voice, participants will have *vocal coaching* while learning and honing specific techniques and approaches to professional auditions and performance and working with an accompanist. We'll discuss the development and flow/format of librettos written in the great tradition of American Musical Theatre (i.e., the Broadway Show) exploring types of songs while learning why they are placed where they are in the context of the story. If there is interest, we can take a look at *Cabaret* performance and explore how our approach to lyric story-telling is crucial in the development process of this unique art form which owes its content to Musical Theatre Composers and Lyricists.

Suggested prerequisites:

Ability to, at some level, SING. While it is helpful for the student to be able to read music at a rudimentary level, it is not required.

Students will benefit from having a smartphone app or other method of recording individualized accompaniment, workshop and coaching portions of the classes.

Max Class Size:

12.

Class Times:

Thursdays 7 - 10pm.

June 15, 22, July 13, 20, 27, August 3, and *TBD presentation

No class on June 29 (conflicts with Leslie Felbain's class) or July 6 (week of July 4)

It is expected that all students attend all classes and complete all assignments.



*At a date TBD, the class will conclude with an accompanied public musical presentation of songs and scenes (by those brave participants wishing to "strut their stuff").

Location:

St. Thomas Episcopal Church | 2000 Highland Ave, Rochester, NY 14618

Instructor Bio:

Mr. Raisner has a degrees Theatre Production and Psychology and is a certified Clinical HypnoTherapist. He has professional credits as: Actor (AEA, SAG-AFTRA), Stage Manager (AEA), Musical Director/Conductor, Pianist (AFM), Composer (ASCAP) Technical Director and Playwright/Lyricist (Dramatists' Guild). Credits include: Production Stage Manager for *JellyRoll!* (overseeing 5 companies) and many other shows; Production Manager for the world premiere of Arthur Miller's *The Last Yankee*; Technical Director for *Le Magic de Alain Chaquette* at Caesar's Palace and for ABC/Disney, Directed by Gary Oulette. Improv: Second City and I/O. Stand-Up: has appeared at the Improv in LA while working there in film and television. Broadway, Regional and National Touring credits include over 50 musicals and cabarets. Member of the ASCAP/DISNEY workshop with Stephen Schwartz. Assoc. Conductor/Keyboards: *42nd Street, No No Nanette, Annie, Hair*. Broadway pit (sub): *Cats, Les Miserables*. Acting credits include: *A Winter's Tale, Twelfth Night, A Midsummers Night Dream, Cherry Orchard, Le Maladie Imaginaire, Cat On A Hot Tin Roof, The Odd Couple, Grease!, The Sound of Music, Forty-Second Street, 1776, Peter Pan*. He has collaborated in many cabaret and musical reviews and has accompanied Julie Andrews, Angela Lansbury, Betty (Lauren) Bacall, Mimi Hines & Phil Ford, Vanessa Williams, Theo Bickel and, most recently, Lee Roy Reams with whom he'll be appearing along with Eden Espinoza, Robert Cuccioli and Brian D'Arcy James on a planned future sailing of Celebrity Cruise Lines' Broadway Tour. TV: *Days of Our Lives, My Wife and Kids, Son Of the Beach, Angel, Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Disney's Zeke and Luther* and several PBS Specials. He has originated roles in a number of film and television projects and was cast as a Series Regular on two shows and the pilot project *Did You Hear the One About?* with George Gray and Muse Watson. Film: *Le Petomane: Parti Avec du Vent, The Invention of Lying* (Directed by Ricky Gervais). For his work in the short *The Story of Adam and Eve* he earned laurels winning Italy's "Best Comic Actor in a Foreign Film" (USA). He has appeared in or can be heard on a variety of commercials. His voice is best recognized as, the the voice of Heineken, Ford F-150 and as the Super-Villain, *Gogg-Ma Gogg* on Adult Swim™.

Mr. Raisner is a proud member of Actor's Equity Association; the Screen Actors Guild / American Federation of Radio and Television Actors; American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers; Dramatists' Guild; American Federation of Musicians; International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Academy of Magical Arts. He holds his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Toledo and a CHt from Hypnosis Motivational Institute. He has



studied at American University in Washington, D.C., Boston University School For the Arts and is an alum of the Commercial Theatre Institute in New York City.