

2024 NeuroVocal Teacher Training & Certification

What is *NeuroVocal for Popular Styles*?

This approach to singing for microphone-based genres was developed by Meredith Colby to help singers address amplified performance situations in which their ability to hear themselves is limited. Based on neuroscience, this adaptive method guides the singer to an internal experience of phonating and singing. By using intention and attention, the singer learns to utilize the predictive nature of the brain to alter the existing motor response to the intention to sing. Colby developed exercises to help singers allow unfamiliar kinesthetic sensations, which in turn open up new healthy and powerful sound possibilities. The goal is efficient production and natural sound.

Why we do it...

The goal of this class is to empower voice professionals, teachers, and coaches, with knowledge and tools that serve singers of popular (microphone-based) styles.

The overwhelming majority of music consumed and performed around the globe is popular music.

As independent and adjunct voice pros, the majority of singers who seek our services are interested in popular music, contemporary music theater, or both.

NeuroVocal Teacher Training will equip you to confidently serve this population, as well as discover new ways to enjoy your own singing.

What we're doing...

This experience will set you up with a solid platform for teaching singers of popular styles, informed by neuroscience.

The intentions for this class:

- Basic knowledge of our brains, and how they interface with our voices and our bodies.
- Basic knowledge of popular styles; the values, the experiences, and style vocabularies.
- Basic knowledge of how to coach singers of popular styles.
- Working understanding of how to exploit certain neurological and physiological principles to create freedom of expression in singing for popular styles.
- Confidence to take what you've learned and expand into the knowledge and skill sets for coaching singers of popular styles.

How we're doing it...

- Fifteen 90-minute **weekly class sessions**.
 - In person via Zoom
- Four **peer coaching** workshops
 - In person via zoom
- Four **coaching observation** sessions
 - Volunteers welcome!
- Eight **private 1:1 coaching** sessions with Meredith
- Communication via email
- Private Facebook group
- Optional self-paced course, *Introduction to NVM*

What the format looks like...

This 23-week class is organized in structure, and informal in tone. As participants acquire and apply new knowledge and skills, they're encouraged to share their experience and insights. In this way the group grows together through the class experience.

- Pre-class: Links to video, class notes, and support materials
- Post-class: Recap + links to folders with class recording and support materials
- Short video presentations about the unit topic
- Lectures expanding on video points
- Recorded classes made available for reviewing or catching up
- Support resources for all modules
- Private 1:1 coaching for application in both singing and coaching
- Coaching observation sessions
- Feedback & encouragement for coaching skills

What a typical class looks like...

- 20 mins: Check-in and sharing
- 6-10 mins: Video
- 30 mins: Lecture on video highlights
- 20 mins: Workshopping application
- 10 mins: Questions & troubleshooting

What are some of the extras...

- Pre-class **Coffee Kibitz** with Meredith. 20 minute meeting with you, Meredith, & the beverage of your choice.
- Homework that's encouraging, not overwhelming
- Support materials for everything we cover
- Scripts & crib sheets to walk you through teaching the NVM principles
- Choice of **finance-free** payment plans
- An **E-copy of MONEY NOTES: How to Sing High, Loud, Healthy, and Forever**
- **Access** to the self-paced course *Introduction to Neuro-Vocal Method* on the *Teachable* platform
- Teacher & Coach NVM Certification

Weekly syllabus:

UNIT 1: The Nervous System & Singing

This unit explains the predictive brain, and addresses common myths about the brain. Why a sensory/interoceptive experience of sound production allows for faster learning and is more reliable than basing learning on listening and aural feedback. How the brain creates efficient phonation. Why phonation precedes singing and how the two organically integrate. Why one's judgments about vocal sounds - both the self and the student - are typically unreliable when the goal is healthy phonation. Principles covered are *Hunn*, and *Hunn-ee*.

Week 1_Brain Basics: *What Brains are For*

Week 2_An Inside Job: *Interoceptive Awareness*

Week 3_ Doing the Math: *Your Brain Does the Heavy Lifting*

Week 4_ The Neuro & The Vocal: *Building on Neurological Tools*

Week 5_ No regular class_Scheduled & recorded *Coaching workshop with Meredith: application of the new tools*

Week 6_ Peer coaching workshop

UNIT 2: Singing Popular Styles

This unit addresses myths about popular singing, the values of popular styles, the needs of the singer of popular styles, the role of microphones and amplification, and vocabulary of styles. The role and application of vocal textures and colors are explained and adopted. Principle covered is *Cartoon Mouse*.

Week 7_ The Nasty Triangle: *Blending High in Popular Styles*

Week 8_ Registration: *Vocal Camouflage & Textures*

Week 9_ Style: *How's That Going to Happen?*

Week 10_ Stylecraft Tool Belt

Week 11_ No regular class: Scheduled & recorded coaching workshop.

Week 12_ Peer coaching workshop

UNIT 3: The Respiratory System & Singing

This unit explores the ways that breathing for microphone-based genres differs from acoustic genres. Basic breathing anatomy, breathing to exploit the phrenic nerve, and the role that tracheal pressure (breath support) and laryngeal balance play in creating a sustainable high mix (blend, or “belt”). Principles covered are *Power Breathing* and *Dog Mouth*.

Week 13_ The Parts & The Whole: *The Respiratory System*

Week 14_ Breathe Like a Chimp

Week 15_ Connect the Dots: *A Reliable High Mix*

Week 16_ No regular class: Scheduled & recorded coaching workshop.

Application of new tools

Week 17_ Peer coaching workshop

UNIT 4: How Brains Learn

This unit both recaps and expands on what we've learned about the brain in both learning and singing. Coaching skills have been integrated into the overall structure of the class, and in this unit we gather them together to enhance confidence in their application.

Week 18_ The Hands of Time: *How Attention Molds Learning & Behavior*

Week 19_ Concepts: *How They Work, When They Work*

Week 20_ A Different Ball Game: *Coaching for the PM Singer*

Week 21_ No regular class: Scheduled & recorded coaching workshop.

Week 22_ Peer coaching workshop

Week 23_ Finale: *Singing for Joy & Connection*