

West Coast Jazz and Blues Society

VOCAL SUMMIT XV

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to invite you to VOCAL SUMMIT XV to be held in Powell River, BC, Canada on Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4, 2009. Vocal Summit is a project of the "West Coast Jazz and Blues Society." Our major sponsors are Brooks Secondary School and School District 47 Powell River.

The Summit will gather jazz and concert choirs from around the Pacific Northwest to share and learn from each other in a non-competitive atmosphere. Each ensemble will have a performance opportunity in a concert setting. Following this, choirs will receive a workshop with a guest clinician, as well as taped and written comments. Additional workshops may be offered at various times throughout the festival for students and directors.

We have currently scheduled concert and chamber choirs to perform all day Friday. Jazz Choirs will perform Saturday. Evening concerts will take place Friday and Saturday. The Friday evening concert will include Brooks Chamber Choir, one or two selected choirs from the daytime performances and our guest artists, M Pact. Some of the director's may have heard this group at the summit before but I know this will be a new experience for your students. If you would like to read more about this amazing a cappella vocal ensemble visit their website at www.m-pact.com

The Saturday evening concert will include Brooks Jazz Choir, one or two selected choirs from the daytime performances and our guest artists, Dee Daniels with the Bruce James orchestra. Dee has been here many times before and is always a huge hit. This is the first time she has appeared with a full big band. We are thrilled that the members of the Bruce James orchestra are able to share the stage with Dee.

We are extremely pleased to have as our adjudicator's/clinicians Frank DeMiero, Laurie Cappello, Kirk Marcy and Jim Sparks. Their combined experience as music educators will be invaluable and motivational to all participants. We would also like to encourage you and your students to take advantage of the participant rehearsal both days. One of our esteemed clinicians will be conducting a piece for all participants to sing at the Saturday evening concert. This is a unique opportunity for all singers to get to know and work with one another.

You will also be pleased to know that John and Heather Sharpe of Sharpe Creations will once again be here to provide their expertise with all the technical aspects of the festival.

While the cost of travel, accommodation etc. of bringing these artists and clinicians to the "Vocal Summit" has increased we are attempting to keep your costs down. The cost for the evening concerts will be \$15.00 per ticket. There will not be a reduced price for purchasing both nights. The general public will have reserved seats for evening concerts as they are paying an increased price. Participants will have general seating based on a first-come, first-served basis. We will need to know exactly how many tickets you will require. This is very important as the festival is highly subsidized by public ticket sales. The registration fee will remain the same as in previous years.

We are encouraging music departments to make their visit to Vocal Summit XV a part of their spring tour. If you would like to have assistance in setting up additional concert venues, we would be pleased to help.

The focus of this festival is one of music education. The non-competitive environment lends itself to musical growth. Beginning and advanced ensembles should feel welcome and secure in the fact that they will receive immense benefit from participating and sharing their music. The support and encouragement received will make this a positive experience for all ensembles.

Application forms are available on-line at www.westcoastjazz.net, or by contacting the following:

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Registrar, Vocal Summit XIV

We look forward to seeing you at Vocal Summit XV!

Yours sincerely

Peter Taylor
President, West Coast Jazz and Blues Society