

MEGAN HOOK

Music Workshops

MEET THE ARTIST:

Megan Hook is a singer, writer and actress who performs and teaches in Los Angeles. Megan graduated cum laude with a degree in Classical Music from Ithaca College. She has sung three world-premiere operas in the last twelve years in addition to performing other standard operatic roles and singing art song recitals. Additionally, Megan writes and performs in the Indie rock world. She fronted the Seattle-based ambient electro-pop band *SuperLuminal* for 5 years before moving to Los Angeles and forming the Bright. The Bright is currently recording an album that is due for release in the summer of 2008. Megan is a produced playwright having written two plays, one of which, *The Moments in Between*, about Mozart, won Stepping Stone Theatre's New Playwrights Contest in 2004. Megan's other passion is teaching. While in Seattle she founded and ran her own teaching studio called Voice Matters for 5 years. Here in Los Angeles she has taught at Lori Moran Music, at The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute, with Aimee Art Productions and with the Music Center of Los Angeles County. Megan is a member of NATS (The National Association of Teachers of Singing) and ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers).



MUSIC · CENTER

ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

Students explore the fundamental elements of music (such as pitch, melody, beat, rhythm, and storytelling) while learning the foundation of healthy singing (breath support, mask resonance, diction) through residencies that focus on singing songs.

Megan's background as a professional performer in a variety of genres including opera, jazz, and pop and rock allow her offer a wide variety of residency options. Recently she has presented 'Storybook Music' which focused on songs from Storybooks and 'Motivational Music' which focused on songs that inspire us to see the best in ourselves and in the world, and

encourage us to move forward in life with hope and confidence.

The residency usually culminates with a performance which allows

students to hone rehearsal techniques and create choreography.

BEFORE THE WORKSHOP:

- Please have the students wear nametags for the workshop. It saves time if they are made beforehand!
- Please have a simple journal ready for each student, either as a notebook or simply six pieces of paper stapled together. Lines for writing are ideal.
- Review the importance of listening and observing. Ask the students what it means to be a good listener. What does it mean to be a good observer? Why is it important in daily life? Why is it important when the artist is here?
- Review students' knowledge and ideas about music, underscoring the idea that it is both personal and universal. Discuss that everyone's ideas will be both different and related. Discuss the importance of being able to express oneself through music and to enjoy a wide variety of styles.

AFTER THE WORKSHOP:

- Review the major points presented in the workshops. What were the most important ideas? What parts of the workshop did the students like best? What did they learn? What did they learn about themselves?
- Practice the activities and skills they learned with the artist so students can attain more ability and enjoyment with music.
- Review songs they learned and practice them often.
- Perhaps build a music center within the classroom that features the music, instruments and other artifacts connected to a specific culture. It is a good idea to have a tape/CD player and headphones so students can listen to the music. Have a few questions that direct their attention to listen for different things (e.g. types of instruments, mood of the music, melody, rhythm, texture of sounds, etc.)