

# Directory of Collegiate Vocal Jazz Ensembles

Following is a list of two and four-year institutions of higher education having a vocal jazz ensemble, and/or, in some cases, a vocal jazz program. The only criterion behind listing the school's name was for the director to submit two vocal jazz programs from the past school year (1981-82), in which the ensemble performed a majority of vocal jazz literature.

We hope you will use this list to contact the directors and ask for further information about their program, concerts, tours, and adjudication assistance. Finally, we hope the publishers of vocal jazz music will support these directors by asking for their input concerning the publication of vocal jazz literature.

If you have a vocal jazz ensemble in your college or university curriculum and are not listed below, please drop me a note and I will forward you the necessary forms.

Gene Aitken, Director  
Jazz Studies Program  
University of Northern Colorado

## American Conservatory of Music

116 S. Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60603 312/263-4161 ext. 276  
Director: Greg Shearer  
Groups: Vocal Jazz Ensemble  
Jazz combos include vocalists

## Berklee College of Music

1140 Boylston St.  
Boston, Mass. 02215  
(617) 266-1400  
Director: Stephen Prosser  
Groups: The Berklee Jazz Choir & The Berklee Hi Los Ensemble  
Courses Offered: Performance Ear Training, Jazz Vocalese, Vocal Improvisation in the Jazz Idiom, Workshop for the Jazz Vocalist, Vocal Jazz Performance

## Brigham Young University

Provo Utah 84601  
(801) 378-3085  
Director: Derek Furch  
Group: Vocal Jazz Ensemble  
Years in Existence: 2  
Courses Offered: Vocal Jazz Ensemble

## California State University, Fresno

Fresno, CA 93740  
(209) 294-2654  
Director: Rolland W. Hurst  
Group: CSUF Jazz Singers, Small Vocal Ensembles  
Years in Existence: 3

## Central Wash. University

Ellensburg, Wash. 98926  
(509) 963-1216  
Director: John F. Moawad  
Groups: Vocal Jazz I, Vocal Jazz II, Female Quartet, Male Quartet, Mixed Quartet  
Courses Offered: Jazz Arranging

## Colorado State University

Ft. Collins, CO 80523

303-491-5528

Director: Kirby Shaw  
Groups: Jazz Choir, Show Choir  
Courses Offered: Jazz Choir, Jazz and Pop Solo Singing  
Years in Existence: 2

## Columbia Basin College

Pasco, Wash. 99301  
Director: Byron Gjerde  
Group: CBC Desertones

## DeAnza College

21250 Stevens Creek Blvd.  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
408-996-4511  
Director: Roger Letson  
Groups: DeAnza Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Evening Jazz Singers  
Courses Offered: Vocal Jazz Performance, Vocal Performance Class, Improvisation, Jazz Theory, Jazz Arranging, Jazz Combos

## Diablo Valley College

321 Golf Club Rd.  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
(415) 685-1230  
Director: Chris Nelson  
Group: Vocal Jazz Ensemble

## Eastern Wash. University

Cheney, Wash. 99004  
(509) 359-7080  
Director: Dr. Ralph Manzo  
Groups: Collegians, Vocal Jazz I

## Edmonds Community College

20000 68th Ave. West  
Lynnwood, WA 98036  
(206) 771-1648  
Director: Frank DeMiero  
Groups: Soundsation Jazz Choir, Soundsation Swing Choir  
Hours per week: 5  
Courses Offered: Theory - Vocal Improvisation - Vocal Styling  
Soundsation Jazz Camp, a week-long summer session every August

## Gonzaga University

Spokane, WA 99258  
509-328-4220  
Director: Jim McCullough  
Group: Vocal Jazz Ensemble I  
Courses Offered: Jazz Improvisation (includes vocal), Jazz Keyboard Theory (includes vocal)

## Hibbing Community College

1515 E. 25th St.  
Hibbing, Minn. 55746  
218/262-3877 ext. 49  
Director: Tom Palmersheim  
Groups: The Rangeland Vocal Band, Vocal Jazz Ensemble

## Ithaca College, School of Music

Aurora Street  
Ithaca, New York 14850  
(607) 274-3171  
Director: Dave Riley  
Group: Ithaca Vocal Jazz Ensemble

## Kearney State College

Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 236-4388  
Director: William A. Lynn  
Group: Nebraskats

## Long Beach City College

4901 E. Carson St.  
Long Beach, CA 90808  
(714) 420-4309  
Director: Tom Dustman  
Groups: Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Studio Singers  
Degrees Offered: A.A. in Commercial Music

## North Texas State University

Denton, Texas 76203  
(817) 788-2791  
Director: Paris Ruthertord  
Group: The NTSU Jazz Singers  
Years in Existence: 4  
Hours per week: 3

## Oakland University

Walton & Squirrel Rd.  
Rochester, Mich. 48063  
(313) 377-2045, 377-2032  
Director: Ronald DeRoo  
Groups: Vocal Jazz Ensemble I & II  
Courses Offered: Vocal Jazz, Improvisation, Jazz Theory & Jazz Arranging  
Degrees Offered: Commercial Music Major (Bachelor of Music)

## Pembroke State University

Dept. of Music  
Pembroke, NC 28372  
Director: Dr. William Fritz  
Group: Singers and Swingers

## Roanoke College

Southurst, VA  
Director: Bonnie Todenhoft  
Group: Roanoke College Jazz Choir

## Sam Houston State University

Huntsville, TX 77341  
(713) 294-1360  
Director: James Balentine  
Group: Jazz Choir  
Courses Offered: Jazz Arranging, Jazz Improvisation I & II (both include vocal techniques)

## San Jose State University

San Jose, CA 95192  
(408) 277-2905  
Director: Michael West  
Group: Jazz Choir I - II  
Courses Offered: Jazz Choir, Improvisation, Jazz Theory & Keyboard, Vocal Workshop, Arranging (beg. & adv.)  
Degrees Offered: BA Music, Jazz Concentration

## University of Akron

Akron, Ohio 44325  
216-375-7590  
Director: Richard Shanklin  
Group: Jazz Singers  
Degrees Offered: BA in Jazz Studies

## University of Arkansas at Little Rock

33rd & University  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204  
501-569-3294  
Director: Michael Crawford  
Group: Vocal Jazz Choir  
Years in Existence: 2  
Courses Offered: Improvisation I & II, Jazz Theory

## University of Miami School of Music

Coral Gables, Florida 33124  
(305) 284-3687

Director: Larry Lapin  
 Groups: Jazz Vocal Ensemble I, II, III  
 Courses Offered: MTC 113, Analysis of Jazz Styles, MTC 371 & 372, Improvisation (vocal), MED 444, Jazz Pedagogy (vocal), MAP 549 & 550, Studio and Performance Styles 1 & 2 (vocal)  
 Degrees Offered: Bachelor of Music, Major in Studio Music & Jazz Vocal

**University of Northern Colorado**  
 Jazz Studies Program  
 Greeley, Colorado 80639  
 (303) 351-2577

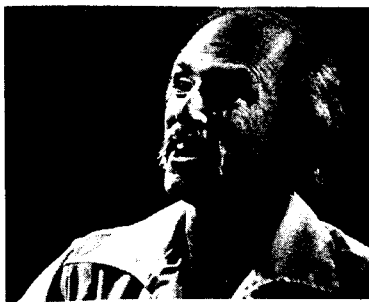
Director: Gene Aitken  
 Groups: 3 Vocal Jazz Ensembles, 2 vocal jazz Quartets, Vocal Jazz Soloists with Combos and Big Bands  
 Courses Offered: Jazz Theory, Jazz Arranging I & II (includes vocal jazz arranging), Vocal Jazz Improvisation, Graduate Teaching assistantships in Vocal Jazz (2)  
 Degrees Offered: Jazz Pedagogy, Doctoral level, Secondary Emphasis in Vocal Jazz

**University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire**  
 Eau Claire, WI 54701  
 (715) 836-3475  
 Director: Val Knobloch  
 Group: Vocal Jazz Ensemble  
 Courses Offered: Jazz Arranging, Jazz Improvisation

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**  
 650 N. Lake St.  
 Madison, WI 53706  
 (608) 262-2551  
 Director: Scott Foss  
 Group: The Wisconsin Singers

**University of Wisconsin Milwaukee**  
 P. O. Box 413  
 Milwaukee, WI 53201  
 (414) 963-4393  
 Director: Robert Porter  
 Group: Vocal Jazz Ensemble  
 Courses Offered: Vocal Jazz Ensemble  
 Degrees Offered: B.A. Jazz Studies, Education Applied Therapy

**Western Michigan University**  
 School of Music  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
 616-383-0910  
 Director: Stephen Zegree  
 Group: Gold Company  
 Degrees Offered: B.M. in Jazz



Gene Aitken

# BOOK REVIEWS

**Scat Singing Method** - Scott Fredrickson - Scott Music Publications - Sole selling agent Alfred Publications - Aural/Melodic approach - written and recorded examples for solo, S-A-B Back-up, piano, bass, drums - \$29.50.

**Scat Singing Method** is a sensible approach to vocal improvisation that will prove beneficial to those instructors beginning a vocal jazz program without previous jazz experience. Scott's approach to scat singing is methodical and deliberate. When followed precisely to gain 'proficiency before moving from step to step', this text should open the eyes and ears of all your students to a more knowledgeable concept of scat singing.

Beginning with an awareness of syllables, and how they relate to jazz concepts, the method progresses through melodic and rhythmic changes until the student can integrate all three into a well-balanced, interesting statement. Although brief, phrasing is explained as well as some very good ideas for rehearsal technique.

The manuscript is clear and the layout of the book is logical. Only a few jazz artists are mentioned as sources, and the discography section is very brief. There are descriptions and examples of many jazz articulations, albeit a bit lengthy and not entirely accurate.

Two tapes are included in the method:

- #1- Complete instructions with examples of all concepts discussed - each example played twice (first with solo and rhythm section, then rhythm section alone).
- #2 Eight new performable arrangements and compositions in various styles, tempos and keys - each piece has rhythm section, vocal melody, S-A-B vocal back-up and no scat solo.

Although the verbage is quite lengthy (follows the text exactly), the recorded examples are quite accurate, and Scott Fredrickson does a fine job with examples of scat singing.

As a kit, this will prove to be an

asset to those concerned with improvement of the quality of scat singing within their ensemble. The method will work well on a one to one basis, however the publisher might consider making student example sheets available for use in a class situation.

Vocal jazz enthusiasts have waited a long time for a "HOW TO" Scat book. Finally, there is a source that will help fill that gap!

**Roger L. Letson**  
**DeAnza College**  
**Cupertino, CA**

**Vocal Improvisation: An Instrumental Approach** by Patty Coker and David N. Baker, published by Studio P/R (distributed by Columbia Pictures: Publications), 1981, \$20.00.

Profound! This is the only word that comes to mind after going through this marvelous and practical text. With this book (and accompanying tape) the authors have combined material from the better existing instrumental improvisation methods and have isolated and added material and methodology which is most applicable to the vocalist. A great deal of the material is linked to the excellent publications by Jerry Coker, David Baker and Jamey Aebersold, all of whom are giants in the field of jazz education.

**Vocal Improvisation** proceeds in logical sequence covering most, if not all the material and equipment needed by the improviser. Beginning with interval studies, progressing through chord-scale relationships, scales, patterns, and putting all of these together to encompass different jazz styles; i.e. Blues, Be-bop, Modal style and even "going outside" (slide-slipping, etc.) the book really attends to what modern jazz improvisation is all about. This is the way instrumentalists have been taught to improvise ever since a pedagogy for teaching improvisation has existed. Now, finally, the vocal musician has been provided with a vehicle to catch up with the instrumentalist after lagging so far behind for so many years.

For those of you who have not as