

# ABOUT JAZZ VOCAL ACADEMY INTERNATIONAL

## Our Mission

*To provide singers of all ages with practical tools and the necessary skills to allow them to take their place as a musician among musicians in jazz and other popular music settings.*



## Musicianship

Providing singers with the theoretical, practical, and experiential knowledge that will qualify them as well-rounded musicians and prepare them for more efficient and successful interactions with other singers and instrumentalists.

## Vocal Health

Promoting vocal health across all ranges of vocal production – chest, head, “mix” etc. – cultivating technical knowledge, body awareness, emotional connection and experience in order to favor long-term success above short-term gains.

## Learning-by-doing

A pedagogical philosophy which allows students to discover strengths as well as improve on weaknesses in real-life situations, and to learn from each other in a friendly atmosphere of safety, encouragement and fun!

## Comprehensive Curriculum

All of our courses and series are designed to be perfectly in synch with one another - and always with an eye to the overarching pedagogical through line. Interdependent, yet never redundant – allowing students to develop skills across parallel areas of concentration simultaneously.

## Certificate Program

Setting clear goals and helping students to achieve the necessary progress to credibly assert themselves on a professional playing field.

## JAZZ STYLE & INTERPRETATION

*What is this thing called Jazz?*

### 100 SERIES

#### 101 – Authentic Styles 1.5h

*Critical Listening : Hearing the difference*

#### Pop vs. Jazz vs. R&B vs. Broadway 1.5h

Do you know “Jazz” when you hear it? What distinguishes it from other genres you’re familiar with? Does Norah Jones swing? What about Robbie Williams’ big band album? Just because it’s a jazz song, doesn’t mean it’s always jazz. In this class you’ll learn to distinguish authentic styles and therefore how to avoid being “cheesy” in your own performance.

#### 102 – Rhythm Workshop 1.5h

*It Don’t Mean a Thing if it ain’t got that...*

#### This Thing Called Swing 1.5h

Fun practical exercises for getting into the swing of things. Developing a much hipper sound – while eliminating the cheesiness you didn’t even know was there!

#### 103 – Intro to Improvisation 5h

*The Blues*

#### 103 A – Call & Response 2+ h

Learn how to team up your natural instincts with a touch of logic in order to construct interesting and exciting solos over a basic 12-bar blues. Strategies for melodic and rhythmic development through call & response with others, as well as with yourself, so that you’ll never again be “at a loss for words” during a solo.

#### 103 B – Blues Scale 2+ h

An introduction to the scale you didn’t know you already knew. Learn to exploit this scale on a more conscious and deliberate level to add virtuosity to your solos and to make abstract sounds more “concrete”.

#### 104 – Creative Interpretation 8h

*Coloring Outside the Lines*

#### 104 A – Theme & Variation 2.5h

Breathe new life into a song through applying a few simple techniques of rhythmic and melodic variation. Dare to paint yourself into a corner and discover new exit strategies!

#### 104 B – Emotion & Meaning 2.5h

If it wasn’t about meaning, the composer wouldn’t have bothered to write lyrics. Learn to tap into your own emotions to reach the audience through bringing a personal touch to each performance “in the moment”.

#### 104 P – Practice Session – Interpretation 3h

Take turns developing your interpretation skills one-on-one with a professional accompanist.



## COMMUNICATION

*Taking Charge of the Band-Stand*

### 200 SERIES

#### 201 – Beginning 10h

*Starting off on the right foot*

*“What exactly do you mean by fast latino-funk-swing? Are you gonna count it off, man?”*

#### 201 A – Styles – Straight & Swing 2h

Learn to how to put the right words on the groove you’re looking for. What exactly do you mean when you say “kinda jazzy”? How fast is “fast”? If you’re not sure yourself, then you can’t very well expect your fellow musicians to follow your lead...

#### 201 B – Range and Choosing Keys 1.5h

Test your range – know your limits in chest, head and “mixed” voice. Tips for making informed choices regarding your repertoire, the desired effect, and what key is best for you.

#### 201 C – Transposing Lead Sheets 1.5h

Now that you know what key suits you best – Learn how to prepare clean, clear and correctly transposed charts. This will guarantee that you start off “on the same page” every time!

#### 201 D – Intros and Count-offs 2h

Simple, yet *essential*, guidelines which will help you establish the tempo and groove that you *really* want, then communicate it successfully so that the whole band kicks off together (and *stays* together!); swing, latin, funk, 12/8, fast, slow...

#### 201 P – Practice Session – Beginning 3h

Test your newly honed skills with a *professional accompanist* under the supervision and guidance of your teacher. Participants learn from each other’s successes, as well as mistakes and benefit from a minimum of 20 minutes of one-on-one time with the accompanist.

### 202 – Middle 5h

*Avoid getting lost – Use a Road Map*

*“Uh, it doesn’t seem like you knew quite when to come back in in the middle there, hon’... “*

#### 202 A – Respecting the Form 1h

Gain freedom and independence through knowing the ins and outs of forms and song structures. Establish a “Road Map” and other practical strategies for avoiding getting lost during the solos. After all, it’s your job, not the accompanist’s, to know when you should come in, right?

#### 202 B – Hand Signals and Gestures 1 1h

Physical gestures and hand signs for creating a united front and respecting your Road Map.

#### 202 P – Practice Session – Middle 2.5 h

Can you pat your head and rub your tummy at the same time? Work on your left/right brain coordination as you practice giving necessary signals at the appropriate time *while singing* along with a professional accompanist – and without getting lost!

## 203 – End 5h

### *Finishing with finesse*

“Alright, man, we’ll watch you for the end...”

## 203 A – Choosing endings 1.5h

Skills for making sure that everyone ends “on a good note”. Attaching names to, and choosing, classic endings such as “tag”, “vamp”, coda, etc.

## 204 B – Hand Signals and Gestures 2 1h

More on choosing gestures and timing them properly to be sure to communicate clearly with fellow musicians.

## 204 P – Practice Session – End 2.5h

Timing is everything – be prepared to give your accompanists fair warning of what’s coming up for the big finish! Participants learn from each other’s successes, as well as mistakes, and benefit from a minimum of 20 minutes of one-on-one time with the accompanist.



## 204 – Mic Technique 10h

### *An essential extension of your instrument*

“You were great! It’s a shame we couldn’t really hear you though...”

## 204 A – Successful Sound Check & Basic Mic Technique 2h

The basics of making the most of your microphone use – both handheld and on the mic stand. Fundamentals for an efficient and successful soundcheck so that you are sure to sound your best in any situation.

## 204 PA – Practice Session – Basic Mic Technique 1.5h

Get your body used to the positions and movements required for keeping the microphone in line with your

instrument so that it may capture only the best of your sound.

## 204 B – Communicating with Sound Engineers 1 - Live 1.5h

Communication is a two-way street. Get tips from working professionals of the sound engineering field to learn what makes for a smoother sound production experience in a live setting.

## 204 PL – Practice Session – Live Sound Check 1.5h

Have your turn at communicating with the sound engineer to adjust your sound to your mutual liking in an efficient manner in a live concert setting.

## 204 C – Communicating with Sound Engineers 2 - Studio 1.5h

Additional tips – direct from the engineer’s mouth – for making your studio sessions as productive and painless as possible – and to achieve the results you’re looking for! Different mics, slightly different techniques, and above all, excellent communication skills!

## 204 PS – Practice Session – Studio Work 2h

Have your turn at communicating with the sound engineer to adjust your sound to your mutual liking in an efficient manner in a studio setting.

## 205 – Putting it All Together 5h

### *Let’s take it from the top!*

“Can you run that by me again, dear?”

## 205 P – Practice Session – Communication Series 5h

Practice taking the lead from start to finish, using the skills accumulated throughout the workshop series. Beginning – Middle – End; Count-offs, Road-Maps, Gestures, and Mic Technique. Full run-throughs with professional musicians.

## Certification

The International Jazz Vocal Academy maintains a regular schedule of Jury sessions – adjudicated and accompanied by local accomplished professional musicians.

Upon completion of the 100 and 200 Series (or their equivalents) a student can request to receive the details and requirements for the next Jury session in their area.

A successful performance, in keeping with the guidelines and requirements for the Jury, will result in certification for **Level 1** of the International Jazz Vocal Academy.

## Vocal Technique

### *Knowing Your Instrument*

## 300 Series

## 301 – Private Lessons 24 hrs

Private instruction regarding vocal health and technique: Posture, Body awareness and Breath support; Larynx awareness and release of unnecessary tension; Sound quality, tone, intonation; Variety of ranges – chest, head, “mix”.

## 302 – Group Classes 24 hrs

### 302 A – Group Lesson 12 hrs

Weekly lessons in small groups to learn the basics of respiratory and phonation techniques – breathing, posture, larynx awareness, etc.

### 302 B – Private Lessons 12 hrs

A follow-up to the group class providing weekly or bi-weekly lessons (1 hr each) to address individual needs and apply techniques to an individual’s repertoire.

**Note :** Though the IJVA does not require completion of the **300 series** for certification at **Level 1**, it is expected that applicants for certification have studied the rudiments of vocal technique. Note also that the 300 series is required for **Level 2** certification.

Feel free to contact us for more information regarding courses and requirements for **Level 2** certification.

## For More Information

Visit our website at :

<https://jva-intl.weebly.com/>

## Founder

International performer and educator Keri CHRYST currently lives and works in Paris, France – by way of Chicago, IL where she earned her Master’s in *Jazz Pedagogy* from *Northwestern University* in 1998. Her spunky “in the pocket” swing, together with an instrumental approach to singing and improvisation, have charmed audiences across the Western Hemisphere and fast earned her a reputation as a “musician’s singer.”

Keri’s recent accomplishments as an educator include pioneering the Jazz Vocal Program at the *American School of Modern Music* in Paris (former *Berklee* affiliate), and authoring a complete curriculum of auxiliary workshops and courses, which allow students to develop into fully rounded musicians, as well as healthy and happy singers.

