

# LAURENCE HOBGOOD WORKSHOP

Perugia  
May 2-6, 2019

## PREPARING TO RECORD: FOR SINGERS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS

For singers, and instrumentalists  
who arrange for singers

Laurence Hobgood offers a 3-day intensive workshop for jazz vocalists, covering theory, arranging, rhythmic fluency, and the studio recording process, emphasizing a relaxed, mindful approach to learning.

### Session Descriptions

#### **I. Recording Procedural: How a jazz vocal record gets made — *on a typical jazz budget.***

This workshop session will review the entire process:

- Gestating an album's theme
- Choosing repertoire
- Criteria informing arrangements
- Preparing new arrangements
- Rehearsal
- What to expect during band-centric tracking and the ensuing vocal-centric session(s).
- Efficient planning, efficient execution — this is how it's done.

#### **II. Music Theory Comprehensive Tailored For Vocalists: From the Ground Up**

If music is the universal language, then its nuts and bolts — from alphabet to correct spelling, grammar, syntax and semantics — is embodied in that oft-dreaded subject: music theory. This workshop session will seek to demystify this subject by providing a distilled overview that's pragmatic, historically informed and goal-specific, making communication with instrumental musicians easier and much more informed.

#### **III. The Art Of Arranging: What, Why and How**

Laurence is perhaps best known for his expansive creativity in arranging material. A singer's "book" — the material they perform as embodied by their arrangements — is an essential component which, in large part, defines both their sound and how their overall musicianship is perceived by discerning audiences; ultimately it's what sets

them apart. This workshop session will explore both general and specific concepts in planning and realizing great and meaningful arrangements: reinterpretation of lyrics, expanded phrasing, groove consciousness and more.

#### IV. Deeper Understanding Of Rhythm: The Secret Ingredient

It's IMPOSSIBLE to overstate the crucial relevance of this subject; probably the most misunderstood essential element of jazz singing. An informed general knowledge of how rhythm *actually works* is indispensable when a main part of one's goal is to have a comfortable flexibility in phrasing, while still being able to keep track of a song's form, i.e. not get lost.

This workshop session will be in two parts:

- 1) A general explanation of key rhythmic building blocks, i.e. how rhythm works, utilizing discernible rhythmic notation.
- 2) Specific exercises Laurence has developed, designed to expand a musician's rhythmic palette, the practical goal being to increase one's ability to comfortably track an ongoing song form independent of one's actual performative choices.

As Laurence is fond of saying, "if our study of music is analogous to a university campus, then rhythm not only has its own building — *it's the biggest building on campus!*"

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Throughout all four sessions, the 'big picture' principles of Laurence's teaching will be present - essentially that relaxed mindfulness is the key. It feeds the greatest secret Laurence has come to believe regarding musical evolution: **the way our egos want to learn music is not the way our brains want to learn music**. We can learn to re-calibrate our source of gratification from a quick-fix approach — instant gratification, little evolution or improvement — to a deeper, more contemplative way of working that leads to steadier and more marked growth. The result is real, lasting gratification that translates in performance.