

Solid Gold Singers

Course Description

This course is for those who enjoy singing and/or playing guitar (or another portable instrument) and who love the pop and rock'n'roll music of the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's. Lyrics and guitar chords will be provided for the songs performed. Eight songs will be sung each week, first along with an original recording, and then with in-class accompaniment. The instructor will have a theme each week with songs matching the theme. Background information on songs and artists will be provided. After 6 weeks, ten songs will be chosen to practice and polish for a lobby concert. There are no auditions for this class. All skill levels are welcome. In concert all songs are performed by the entire group and audience members are encouraged to sing along.

Weekly Layout:

Theme: We're Number One! Songs from 1955-1971. Each song spent a number of weeks at the #1 spot on the Billboard Charts. Some were the #1 song of the year! Artists include: Elvis, Three Dog Night, The Ronettes and others.

Theme: The Beatles. As the instructor's favorite group, there must be a Beatles week! Songs from 1964-1970 are featured - some toe-tappers and some ballads. Wear your Beatle boots and grow your hair long for this week.

Theme: California Sound. Bring your surfboard and wear flowers in your hair to sing these songs from 1963-1967. The Beach Boys and Jan and Dean will be represented, of course.

Theme: One Hit Wonders. From 1957-1968, we'll explore some songs that made their artists briefly famous. Remember Thurston Harris? How about The Murmaids? No? I didn't think so. But you will recognize their songs!

Theme: Let's Protest Something! Well, yes! The '60's and '70's were all about protests! We'll sing two Sam Cooke songs along with unforgettable tunes from Buffalo Springfield and others.

Theme: Rock & Roll Hall of Famers. All of this week's artists have been inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. Songs from 1959-1969 will be featured. Mostly groups dominate this week with a few solo artists mixed in. Also, it's Election Day! Vote for your favorite songs of the semester.

The polls have closed and the results are in! The instructor will reveal the ten songs elected to appear in our end-of-semester concerts. Yes, concerts! In addition to the lobby concert, (hopefully scheduled on Monday, April 28) we will be appearing at Woodlawn Library on Saturday, April 26, at 11 a.m. as part of the Speakers Bureau Program. Today begins rehearsals in earnest!

Rehearse: We will continue to practice our ten songs until we work out all the kinks. Keep in mind that attendance at concerts - as at all classes - is optional. The instructor sincerely hopes you will attend but keeps in mind that life (and travel, and doctor's appointments) happen/s.

Rehearse: The instructor will put the songs in an order that makes sense (at least to her) and we will practice them in that order. We will pay close attention to the timing and try to get as close as possible to the timing of the original recordings.

Rehearse: Other aspects of songs that we'll pay close attention to are the beginnings and endings and instrumental interludes (where included). We usually have some great musicians who will provide introductions and closings. The instructor will let you know when to come in and when to let go of that note!

Rehearse: This will be the last rehearsal before our performances. We'll discuss what to wear, when and where to report, and we'll put any necessary final touches on our songs.

Lobby Performance Day! Since we will be singing our hearts out in the lobby prior to class, we will take a rest - eat a late lunch in the cafeteria and watch a music related film in class. The instructor will ask for song requests for the last class.

Last class! We will sing our song requests! Also, if we've been asked to sing the National Anthem at a Blue Rocks game, we will work on learning that.