



1000 Rim Drive
Durango, CO 81301-3999

September 28, 2009

Joyce Lyons has just completed her third guest residency at Fort Lewis College as a part of the music department's Artist in Residence program. Her responsibilities here have included performing full recitals with a jazz combo, conducting master classes for the music department and coaching our voice students.

Many of our students hope to embark on professional careers of their own, so it is particularly important for us to bring in artists who are making their living as working musicians. Ms. Lyons comes to our studio with a wealth of "real" experience, backed up by many years of intense training, hard work, and a wide array of lessons learned along the way. She relates to students in a meaningful, personal manner that my singers find very positive and inspiring.

Ms. Lyons is especially effective at communicating to our students the need for expressive text portrayal. It was particularly telling that, as students grasp this concept, they begin to relax vocally and release their true voice. This work with Ms Lyons has been exhilarating as many students have experienced profound and positive growth in their technical and musical capacities, as well as a greater willingness to take the risks necessary to really deliver the emotional import of any given song.

Joyce Lyons has consistently demonstrated a strong grasp of vocal technique, knowledge of repertoire and style, and, most importantly, an infectious enthusiasm for the art of vocal performance. Her hilarious sense of humor not only calms the students, but also serves to draw the audience closer for a more satisfying and joyful experience.

My students are still talking among themselves about how much they learned from and were inspired by Ms. Lyons during her most recent residency. I would not hesitate to recommend her for a clinic, residency, or master class at any College or University.

I would be happy to provide further information upon request, and can be reached at Mack_L@fortlewis.edu or 970.247.7251. Thank you for your consideration of this accomplished artist/teacher for a special addition to your vocal program.

Sincerely,
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Mack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Mack
Professor of Music
Fort Lewis College