



North by Northwest Region 13
SUMMER ENRICHMENT TRAINING
 August 20-22, 2026 ~ Anchorage, AK
WEEKEND SCHEDULE
Schedule and class titles subject to change without notice



WED. – Aug. 19
BONUS EVENT

6:00 PM-8:00 pm

Early SET mixer for Cruise attendees, or anyone else attending SET who can make it at Lakefront hotel. *More information to follow.*

THUR. – Aug. 20

1:00 pm	Registration Opens
Beginning 1:00 pm	PVIs and Quartet Coaching scheduled throughout the weekend
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	KICK OFF
4:00 pm- 4:45 pm	SLAM-DUNC “Getting to know you” We will briefly introduce ourselves and discuss our barbershop/music backgrounds. Then we’ll play an ice breaker game to get to know one another. Slam-Dunc “Tag Time” Learn all there is to learn about tag singing! We’ll show you tag singing resources and then together learn several you can use throughout the weekend with three other friends! We’ll also discuss how tag singing can be utilized to make your chorus or quartet members stronger musicians.
4:50 pm-5:30 pm	Special guest Katie Husvar local Music Therapist and Friday guest faculty “Break out the Yarn”
5:30 pm-5:45 pm	Native Dancers or Drummer
5:45 pm-6:00 pm	Native storyteller or wrap up Slam-Dunc: We’ll briefly go over what to expect from the weekend, discuss what we’d like to take away from the weekend, and sing through the regional song! Cherie

FRI.- Aug. 21st		FRI.- Aug. 21st		
Time	Class Title	Class Description	Faculty	Room
9:00-9:45 am				
General Session	Warm Ups and Healthy Singing Tips	Morning session to kick off a day of learning! We’ll start off this jam-packed day with warm ups and tips for healthy singing throughout the event. We’ll also discuss some different warm up choices for your groups and how different warm ups can help achieve different goals! We’ll also sing through the regional song!	Slam-Dunc [Michaela Slamka-Johnston and Mary Duncan]	Redington Ballroom



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Time	Class Title		Faculty	
10:00-11:15 am				
General Session	Grunge work; How to be your own best coach	Join us while we work through our regional song using this highly effective rehearsal technique. We will be training our ears and learning how to be our own best coach. Be ready to sing!	Slam-Dunc [Michaela Slamka-Johnston and Mary Duncan]	Redington Ballroom
Time	Class Title		Faculty	
11:30-12:20 am				
General Session	We rehearsed, now what?	True progress doesn't happen during rehearsal, it happens in the work put in between rehearsals. In this class we will discuss effective ways to plan and show up to your next rehearsal in better shape than you left the last.	Slam-Dunc [Michaela Slamka-Johnston and Mary Duncan]	Redington Ballroom
12:20-1:45 pm	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN		
Cont'd Fri., Aug. 21st		Cont'd Fri., Aug. 21st		
Time	Class Title		Faculty	
1:45-2:50 pm				
Anyone may attend	When music meets belonging: Neurodivergence & the transformative power of singing	Music—especially singing—is one of the most powerful tools we have to: • Bridge differences • Regulate the nervous system • Create connection without requiring sameness Music doesn't demand conformity—it creates belonging. This class will introduce you to:	Special Guest, Music Therapist- Katie Husvar and R13 Culture of Belonging Faculty, Cherie Letts	Redington Ballroom



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		● Understanding what Neurodivergence means. ● Understanding the brain + Music Connection- Why music works so powerfully across neurotypes—and how to harness it . ● Inclusive Rehearsal and Performance Techniques- ● Brief introduction on how to create shows that welcome both neurodiverse performers <i>and</i> audiences.		
Anyone may attend	Conflict as a Catalyst for Creativity	Learn how to manage conflict at chorus, work, or home using tactics to defuse tensions, break impasses, and allow for growth and creative solutions. Conflict is inevitable; it can feel like a failure. But healthy conflict is usually a starting point to something better.	Debra Aungst	
Anyone may attend	Stepping Up Front: Basic Conducting and Musical Leadership	Whether you are a section leader, assistant director, or singer who occasionally finds yourself leading a group, this class is designed to help you step confidently onto the podium. Participants will explore the foundations of conducting, clear arm movement, musical communication, and confident leadership from the front of the ensemble. Through hands-on practice conducting recordings in a live class setting, students will gain practical experience, receive supportive feedback, and develop the skills needed to lead with clarity, energy, and musical purpose—no prior conducting experience required. Participants are encouraged to bring a recording of their choice to conduct, or they may choose to work with "How We Sang Today" during class.	Peggy Benton	



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Cont'd Fri., Aug. 21st		Cont'd Fri., Aug. 21st		
Time	Class Title		Faculty	
3:00-3:45 pm				
General Session	Vocal string theory	Let's dive into the world of vocal production while learning the similarities between the human voice and string instruments.	Slam-Dunc [Michaela Slamka-Johnston and Mary Duncan]	Redington Ballroom
Time	Class Title		Faculty	
4:00-5:30 pm				
General Session	Quartet coaching under glass: Featuring: Rewind and Touchstone quartets	Interactive coaching session where we discuss different techniques and strategies to help a quartet make positive strides	Slam-Dunc [Michaela Slamka-Johnston and Mary Duncan]	Redington Ballroom
5:30-7:00 pm	DINNER-ON YOUR OWN	DINNER-ON YOUR OWN		
Time	Class Title		Faculty	
7:10-8:45 pm				
General Session	Act like you mean it! [working class title]	<i>Under Glass Session-Two different VLQ's; 1 ballad 1 uptune</i> An educational opportunity to explore new dimensions of expression in performance. David will work with each VLQ to demonstrate alternative ways to convey the message of a song through nonverbal acting and storytelling.	Special Guest local theater (Midnight Sun) and former Alaska Sound Celebration Melodrama Director- David Block	Redington Ballroom



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SAT., AUG. 22ND		SAT., AUG. 22ND		
Time	Class Title		Faculty	
9:00-9:45 am				
General Session	Warm up and “Good singing is good singing”	Start the day off with some physical and vocal warm ups to prepare for the day!	Slam-Dunc [Michaela Slamka-Johnston and Mary Duncan]	Redington Ballroom
Time	Class Title		Faculty	
10:00-11:15 am				
General Session	Unify your chorus/quartet Storytelling	Learn how to unify your quartet or chorus’s storytelling by diving into the deeper meaning and message of a song and assigning verbs to each phrase. We’ll do this together using the regional song!	Slam-Dunc [Michaela Slamka-Johnston and Mary Duncan]	Redington Ballroom
Time	Class Title		Faculty	
11:30-12:20 pm				
	Contest...before, during and after	Making the decision to sign up for a contest can be a daunting endeavor. In this class we will discuss all things contest-how to mentally prepare before contest, the ins and outs of contest day, ways to gain new insights from score sheets, and what you can do to make progress between contests.	Slam-Dunc [Michaela Slamka-Johnston and Mary Duncan]	Redington Ballroom
12:20-2:00 pm	LUNCH-PROVIDED BY THE REGION, SERVED AT HOTEL	LUNCH-PROVIDED BY THE REGION, SERVED AT HOTEL		



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Time	Class Title		Faculty	
3:00-3:45 pm				
Anyone may attend	Raise More Than Money: Creative Fundraising That Builds Your Chorus	Discover fresh, creative ways to fund your chorus while strengthening connections within your group and your community. This engaging class is designed specifically for leaders who are ready to think beyond traditional fundraising methods. Instead of relying solely on donations or product sales, you'll explore innovative, fun, and meaningful approaches that inspire participation, build camaraderie, and expand your reach. Walk away with practical ideas you can implement right away—fundraisers that not only generate income, but also create memorable experiences, deepen relationships within your chorus, and showcase your organization in exciting new ways. Whether you're looking to energize your members or attract new audiences, this class will help you turn fundraising into something everyone looks forward to.	Jan Smallwood	
Anyone may attend	Melodrama Magic – Exploring the Mystique behind a Successful Run	For singers & chorus leaders who want to learn about the magic of Alaska Sound Celebration's 30+ year melodrama success. Topics include the musical challenges and creative opportunities of production; strategies for attracting sponsors and building community support so your show becomes a cherished annual tradition; and practical insights into volunteer coordination, production logistics, and everything it takes to bring the magic to life. We'll share what has worked for us over 30+ years, with ideas and opportunities that may help your own production succeed.	Peggy Benton and Melanie Cross	Redington Ballroom
Anyone may attend	Judging categories and levels: Unraveling the mysteries	Have you ever wondered what the words mean on your scoresheet? What does "ensemble sound" or "musicality" mean? What is the difference between C+ and B? Why did they say the music was too difficult for us? Come explore the different judging categories and how judges listen to discern levels for scoring with a Certified	Paula Davis	



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		Expression Judge and the Moderator for the International Judging Program. We will compare and contrast what each category includes and where they overlap as well as listen to various performances to highlight the elements we are investigating. It's a great place to bring your scoresheet questions or other inquiries on exactly what determines different levels in barbershop performance.		
Time	Class Title		Faculty	
3:45-4:15 pm				
General Session	Wrap up and Q&A	Let's wrap up a fantastic weekend of camaraderie and song by discussing as a group how to gain confidence as singers! We will also have time for a Q&A to catch up on any questions that attendees may still have at the end of the weekend.	Slam-Dunc [Michaela Slamka-Johnston and Mary Duncan]	Redington Ballroom
SAT., Aug. 22nd-cont'd				
Time				

7:00-9:00 pm	Show open to the public, including Novice quartet extravaganza!	Featuring: Alaska Sound Celebration, Fairbanks Frontier Chorus Rewind Quartet, Touchstone Quartet, Bonfire Quartet, Midnight Sons Chorus And more!	Redington Ballroom	
SUN., AUG. 23RD	Event is Over – Travel Safely!			