

**PDX Vox Community A Cappella Singing Groups**  
**Opening: Instructor Position**  
**Start Date: Week of January 18, 2010**

**About the Program:**

Based in Portland, Oregon, PDX Vox is a recreational singing class and non-audition performance group that provides the experience of singing *a cappella* (voices only) music to a wide range of singers. The program is designed for adults and teens who have a passion for pop music and are looking for a fun, structured, low-pressure way to improve their singing in a friendly, supportive environment.

Participants sign up to participate in a 13-week session, where the groups rehearse weekly and perform twice over the course of the session. Each group contains up to 20 people and meets in a rented space in either northeast or southeast Portland. Each group learns 4 songs together each week: 2 of these songs are learned by all three groups, and 2 of these songs are specific to the 20-person unit. In addition, some people sign up for an extended hour of singing, during which they work in small groups of 6-8 people to learn 2 more songs as a semi-independent ensemble.

The philosophy of PDX Vox is to enable its participants to make time and opportunities to sing in harmony with others, to improve their vocal and music skills gradually, and to socialize with other music lovers. In terms of musical skills and experience, any point along the spectrum is honored, so long as each person is dedicated to learning and improving on some level.

**About the Position:**

PDX Vox is looking to hire an instructor for the spring term to lead one of the three groups currently taught by the founder-director Marie Schumacher. The new instructor will take over the direction for one of these groups, which meets on Monday evenings, 6:30 – 9:00.

The instructor will be in charge of orienting the singers, leading the singers in vocal warm-ups, teaching them about basic vocal technique, and teaching them the songs. The instructor might be able to organize sectionals in the early weeks of learning, if there is a student who is willing and able to lead a sectional with part of the group. Participants are expected to work on learning their parts at home, but a fair amount of instruction occurs at rehearsal as well.

The instructor will go through training with the director both before and during the session. The director will co-teach the Monday class with the instructor for the first 3-4 weeks. The instructor will also attend and participate in the other groups on Wednesday evening and Friday morning to observe the director's teaching style and techniques, attending at least 2 different rehearsals over the course of the session.

**Timeline:**

Dates for Session: January 25<sup>th</sup> – April 26<sup>th</sup> (13 Mondays – no class on March 22<sup>nd</sup>)

**Other Teaching Dates:**

Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 5:00 (all-group retreat)

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 5:00 (all-group performance)

Training: Two hour-long meetings to be arranged with director, before January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Qualifications:****Musical:**

- Solid foundation in vocal technique, music theory, vocal harmony
- Experience as a music performer
- Experience singing a cappella music
- Basic ability on piano
- Experience leading choirs, vocal groups, or other music ensembles

**Pedagogical / Interpersonal:**

- Excellent directing and facilitation skills; ability to foster collaboration, fellowship and group spirit
- Ability to provide positive, supportive, and encouraging coaching to beginning and intermediate singers
- Ability to teach music using techniques that balance fun with musical progress and improvement
- Ability to respond to the needs to adult learners with a range of musical skills and experiences, and to target instruction to individual needs within a group setting

**Compensation:**

The instructor will be paid a total of \$1200 for the session, which includes the training time (7 hours), the 13 weeks of rehearsals, the retreat, and the final performance.

**To Apply:**

Send resume and cover letter, both in pdf form, to:

Marie Schumacher, Director

PDX Vox

marie@pdxvox.com