

# AC & C 2026 EDUCATION CLASSES

DoubleTree by Hilton Syracuse – East Syracuse, NY  
Sunday, May 3, 2026

Classes are held in the Adams Basin, Bushnells Basin and Sacketts Basin rooms.

## 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**Class 1: Interpreting a song: Using ALL the stuff!** – with Liz LeClair (Certified Music Judge). Join Liz as we explore the how's and why's of the songs we choose to perform. Do the research, delve into the music to really see what it has to offer you, so you can bring it to life! We'll be viewing varied performances of our sample songs. *Location: Adams Basin*

**Class 2: Conflict!** – with Doc Spilker (Certified Performance Judge). In this class, we look for and exploit the one thing most of us avoid, conflict. Utilization of the story's conflict has the potential of increasing the emotional range a performer has to generate a more relatable connection with the audience. Lets get beyond the superficial and explore the dirty areas of what is really at stake in the message of the song.

*Location: Bushnells Basin*

## 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Class 3: Quartet Coaching** – with John Ward (Certified Singing Judge). In this class, we will go over basic techniques for diagnosing singing issues in a quartet setting and tools to help resolve issues and make fast improvements in how the quartet sings and performs. *Location: Sacketts Basin*

## 10:10 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

**Class 1: Singing with Emotion** – with Lynn Randall (Certified Singing Judge). This one-hour class introduces the essentials of singing with emotion in the Barbershop style. Participants will explore how to connect with lyrics, shape phrases, and use vocal color and dynamics to tell a clear, compelling story, leaving with practical tools they can apply immediately in rehearsal and performance.

*Location: Adams Basin*

**Class 2: Embellishments and how to get the most from them** – with Alex de Bruin (Certified Music Judge). Detailed look into the embellishments we use in barbershop arrangements, what they are, why we use them, and how to use them more effectively. *Location: Bushnells Basin*

## 11:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

**Class 1: Vocal Warmups** – with John Ward. In this class you will learn the daily exercises that can be used to expand range, strengthen the vocal apparatus, and care for the voice. When learned and utilized, these techniques will help you sing with more control and allow singing for a lifetime with good quality.

*Location: Adams Basin*

**Class 2: Listening to music with a barbershop ear** – with Alex de Bruin. We all have a wide variety of musical interests and experiences, but how can we use those to make our barbershop better? In this session,

we will talk about an approach to actively learning from a variety of genres and listen to some fantastic music! *Location: Bushnells Basin*

**Class 3: Chorus Director Development Class** – with Jim O’Neill (HI Chorus Director Development Coordinator). This class is for all Directors, Assistant Directors and anyone that would be interested. It will be an interactive class addressing issues and collaborative solutions. *Location: Sacketts Basin*