

Music Education Matters Summit 2018

Introduction and Class Descriptions

We are thrilled to announce the 3rd Annual **Music Education Matters Summit** at Rock Eagle 4-H Center July 17-19, 2018. We will offer classes in five core areas: Vocal, Songwriting, Dance, Instrumental, and Musical Theatre. Our workshop leaders and discussion panelists are experts in their field of entertainment. They are knowledgeable about music business, auditions, performing, and training. Their experience ranges from world-wide recording artists and songwriters, Broadway musical dancers and performers, symphony orchestra instrumentalists, movie writers/producers/musical score writers/actors, owners of musical schools as well as movie and video producers. These professionals will serve on a panel to answer questions submitted by the students. Although students choose one **core class**, there will be an opportunity to attend one of the other classes of their choice during our "Expand Your Horizons" time on the schedule. Please be sure to register early to reserve your place; we only have 200 spots available. In the past two years, we've enjoyed participants from 8 states. Former participants have expressed their enjoyment and gratification for the knowledge and experience gained as well as the opportunity to meet so many peers with the same love of music.

The instructors leading the **vocal classes** at MEMS will be teaching everything from the importance of proper vocal care and warm up, the correct way to use a microphone, how to interact with sound crew and stage crew, to singing technique - posture, breathing, head voice vs chest voice, singing in a group vs solo, and more. And we'll have a great time putting all this together while learning a few songs to perform at the end of the week!

The professionals leading **songwriting classes** at MEMS will be touching on many different aspects of songwriting-from lyrical and melodic structure to learning to co-create with other songwriters. There will also be a "crash course" on the music industry. We will work through the various roles a songwriter takes and the different types of music you can create with just words and a melody. The goal of the sessions is to create a fun and welcoming environment for young writers to tell their stories, play songs for one another, and share their love of music while learning what they need to aid them in their future musical ventures.

With popular classic rock tunes and blues techniques, our **instrumental class** students will be challenged to make their best better. Good readers will be gently pushed toward their ear, while play-by-ear students will be nudged toward the page.

Students will also discuss: group dynamics, instrumental careers, collaboration, rehearsal techniques, and how to conquer performance anxiety. Students receiving the most from this class are those who have at least a "later beginner" level of proficiency on their instrument through advanced students.

In the **musical theatre class**, students will learn general and advanced acting techniques such as character development and believability on stage; vocal and movement techniques such as projection and articulation, and how to tell a story with your body. The goal of the leaders in this group is to improve students' skill level in ways that make their performances stand out. Students will participate in fun, meaningful exercises to improve confidence on stage in order to incorporate skill, diction, and character portrayal during stage performances. Students will also learn an "upbeat" musical theatre piece.

Enhance your technical ability and challenge your physical artistry in our **dance classes**. Sessions will include engaging lessons in several different genres of dance including lyrical, jazz, musical theatre, and hip hop. Classes consist of warm up techniques to strengthen muscle alignment and across the floor combinations leading to full sequence dance numbers in the different disciplines. Instructors will use innovative techniques to help students with improvisation. Students will be challenged to elevate their musicality through evolving movements that will be energetic, refreshing and fun.

We will also offer an optional class that anyone can take entitled "**Promote Yourself!**" Every artist needs a press kit. In this class, we'll show you how YOU can put together a solid kit including your bio, headshots, music, video & press articles. We'll also talk about proper social media strategy and other public relations tools to help you stand out! There will be a drawing to win the video equipment used in this class for participants to win at the end of the class.

For those students participating in **instrumental** or **songwriting** classes, it is highly recommended they bring the instrument they wish to play. It is understood that participants traveling from out of state may not be able to bring large instruments such as a piano. We will be able to provide a few for the instrumental workshop. However, if the student will need access to one of our keyboards, we ask that you send an email to Alison Hutcheson (alisonhut68@gmail.com). We will include a packing list once selections have been made.

New this year, we will offer a workshop for adults discussing processes used to launch, organize, and sustain a 4-H Performing Arts program. We will use experience gained from the 37 years of Georgia's Clovers & Company. We will also invite sharing from all states in attendance to establish a network of leaders. The facilitators will discuss the "nuts and bolts" of maintaining a performance group including auditions, travel considerations, funding, rehearsal, leader recruitment, and marketing.