



# Fourth Avenue

a c a p p e l l a

## residency activities

Fourth Avenue provides a wide variety of residency activities for students. In addition to the programs below, customized presentations may be created with input from administrators, teachers and faculty in order to further address the specific curriculum elements of a particular program. Using the principles of ensemble performing, Fourth Avenue teaches valuable skills that are applicable to students of any concentration. These hands-on activities are motivating, enjoyable, and appropriate for **all ages**.

### **Educational Concert: The History of Vocal Music**

**Approximate Length: 45 minutes**

Fourth Avenue's music history concert presentation shows through discussion and live listening examples how a cappella music developed in the high church of early Western Civilization. The history covers the advent of secular vocal music starting with the Madrigal, continuing on to the barbershop tradition of the early twentieth century and ending with the pop sounds of the twenty first century. A study guide for this special educational concert presentation is available.

### **Workshop: Vocal Technique**

**Approximate Length: 45 minutes**

This activity for music students discusses the Alexander Technique of body alignment and the Italian *bel canto* school of breath management. Students will learn the steps to achieving the proper posture for singing, and then experience the principles of the *bel canto* technique through breathing exercises and various vocalises. In addition, a description of the physiological process of inhalation and exhalation will be covered. Fourth Avenue emphasizes that good vocal technique is important for performing any style of vocal music.

### **Masterclass: Ensemble Singing**

**Approximate Length: 45 minutes**

Fourth Avenue's masterclass on ensemble singing includes working directly with choral groups and the ensemble's concert literature. As the group performs, Fourth Avenue gives suggestions on how to achieve the optimal balance, blend and tuning. The ensemble may be divided into smaller groups or sections to more effectively address the problems of individual chorus members in a more personal manner.

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