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[marketing@HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com](mailto:marketing@HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com)***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE THEATRE ACADEMY  
INTRODUCES 2009 SUMMER SINGING CAMPS**

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania — May 26, 2009 — Hershey Area Playhouse Theatre Academy is offering a Summer Singing Camp for aspiring young voices this July. The nine session class will begin on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> and continue on weekdays through July 23<sup>rd</sup>, providing students with more than thirteen hours of vocal instruction. Gwendolyn Bowers (Lentz), a talented Mezzo-soprano, is the lead teacher for the camp.

Class activities and instruction will focus on essential habits and techniques being taught by the best of today's vocal coaches, including warm-up exercises, vocal projection techniques, breathing, pitch and posture exercises. The formation of sound habits will be stressed, so that students can avoid stressing and straining their voices.

Two classes will be offered. "Basic Beginnings for Young Singers" is for students entering 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades while "Bel canto" (*which means beautiful singing*), Ballad and Broadway is for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. On the last day students will perform vocal selections to showcase their growth during the camp.

In “Basic Beginnings for Young Singers,” students will learn basic singing skills (warm-ups, breathing, and projection). Sessions will present a gentle system and foundation for vocal growth. Appropriate habits will be stressed, along with singing appropriate songs for young voices. Each student will receive a comprehensive analysis of the voice type and range (soprano – very high, high, medium-high; also – medium, low; tenor or changing). A brief, simple audition is required before the first session to help customize plans specifically for those in the camp.

For “Bel canto: Ballad and Broadway,” the focus will be on the “Bel canto” technique, as it is surely the best way for singers to build vocal range and power. Most untrained singers have a range of one octave or less. Many of the popular Broadway songs require a range of one and a half octaves. Singers will be coached to develop a solid foundation of technical skills. The class will employ some of the updated techniques presently taught in New York and Philadelphia: vocal warm-ups, body alignment, vowel production, power breathing and expression. Each student will receive a comprehensive analysis of voice type and range. A brief, simple audition is required before the first session to help customize plans specifically for those in camp.

Ms. Gwen Bowers made her New York debut with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra at Lincoln Center under the direction of Maestro Kurt Mazur. She recently sang the roles of Ulrica in *Un Ballo in Maschera* and Addie in *Regina* with the Des Moines Metro Opera Company, receiving the follow reviews in October 2008 [Opera News](#): “Gwendolyn Bowers delivers a fine Ulrica who easily plumbed the sorceress’s contralto depths, and her imaginative, fluid characterization was mysteriously imperious. Bowers morphed her menacing Ulrica into a nurturing (and limelight-stealing) earth-mother as Addie.” These two operas from different genres showcase her versatility.

After completing her undergraduate degree in vocal music at the Eastman School of Music, Gwen was awarded an apprenticeship with the Houston Grand Opera and the University of Houston. She has won various awards and study grants that took her to Italy for two summers. She has presented concerts and solo appearances in various parts of Italy and made her European debut as Carmen, with performances in France, Spain, Portugal and Switzerland.

Gwen has had the pleasure of performing with more than a half dozen orchestras across the USA. She continues to learn, teach, practice and perform ... and currently calls central Pennsylvania home.

Fees for the camp are \$125 if paid prior to June 30, 2009. Classes will be held at Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows, located on Sand Hill Road at Cherry Drive in Hershey, PA. Visit [HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com](http://HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com) for more information and to download a registration form. Contact Randall Cline, Director of Education at 717.497.2315 or [TheatreAcademy@HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com](mailto:TheatreAcademy@HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com) if you have questions about the 2009 summer singing camps.

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Hershey Area Playhouse ([HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com](http://HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com)) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing residents of the community with an opportunity to participate in the creation and production of a theatrical experience. Since its inception in 1999, Hershey Area Playhouse has staged 33 productions at numerous venues around the Hershey area. In April 2007, the Playhouse opened its new permanent home, Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows.