

Building a Professional Music Ensemble

Ms. Angela Young Smucker

ABSTRACT:

The concept of the 21st-century entrepreneurial artist is beginning to find its footing alongside the skills taught and developed in performance and pedagogical study. But what about going beyond the needs of the solo artist? This discussion will address the criteria and resources necessary to start and sustain a professional music ensemble (vocal, instrumental, or combination). Participants will learn about and discuss what is needed to start a non-profit organization, working with a board of directors, fundraising, marketing, using social media, and more. There are many “small shop” music ensembles and organizations out there, but not all of them thrive. This discussion will provide a starting point for building a strong music organization that has the potential to grow.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY:

Mezzo-soprano Angela Young Smucker has earned praise for her “luscious” voice (*Chicago Tribune*) and “powerful stage presence” (*The Plain Dealer*). Her performances in concert, stage, and chamber works have made her a highly versatile and sought-after artist. Recent season highlights include appearances with Haymarket Opera Company, Bach Collegium San Diego, Chicago A Cappella, Seraphic Fire, and Third Coast Baroque. She has also been a featured soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Music of the Baroque, Oregon Bach Festival, and Les Délices. Radio and television appearances include Garrison Keillor’s *A Prairie Home Companion*, WFMT’s *Impromptu* and *Live from WFMT*, and WTTW’s *Chicago Tonight*. Currently pursuing her doctoral studies at Northwestern University, Ms. Smucker holds degrees from the University of Minnesota (MM) and Valparaiso University (BME) – where she also served as instructor of voice for seven years. She is a NATS Intern Program alumna, former Virginia Best Adams Fellow (Carmel Bach Festival), and serves as Executive Director and Co-Founder of Third Coast Baroque.