

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY

B.Z. (Ben Zion) Goldberg has been a teacher of vocal work, singing, and song interpretation for the past twenty five years. His work has encompassed a large range of approaches from the study of opera, to teaching experimental and exploratory vocal work to coaching emerging jazz singers and recording artists, to a three-year stint singing gospel music with the Glide Ensemble in San Francisco.

B.Z. is highly regarded for his teaching of interpretation and performance of songs: The art of connecting a song to one's feelings and life experience while making powerful and authentic connections to an audience. His work often includes vocal and acting techniques to make personal, and emotional connections to musical material, and methods to discover, develop, and bring forth the "story" in a song. This work, which is an approach informed by that of classical European "Cabaret" artists in the 20's and 30's is enhanced by B.Z.'s approach to "stage presence": connecting body, voice, text and imagination, in order to develop the ability to be present on stage with awareness, aliveness and confidence. Very often he will collaborate with a musical director or accompanist in individual work on the musical style of the song.

Many students also appreciate B.Z.'s work in the realm of "vocal exploration," assisting singers to seek out their vocal limits and, when appropriate, helping them find ways to move past these limits using physical work, breath-work and movement, as well as work at the piano. Although this method of working can be vocally (and emotionally) demanding, many students find sessions invigorating and describe the awakening of different sources of sound and energy within the body and an expansion of limits: power, and dramatic presence for sure, but also sometime vocal range, resonance, timbres, and range of styles.

B.Z. has a great love of Gospel, and Eastern European Gypsy music, and can sometimes be seen directing choral groups in these forms of vocal music in a very personal energetic, and exuberant manner.

B.Z.'s influences and teachers include Kaya Anderson, Marita Günther, Rossignol, Jonathan Hart Makwaia (Experimental voice work, Vocal Exploration & Theatre; Roy Hart Theatre, Anduze, France,) Penelope Kreitzer & Mark Rittenberg (Theatre; University of San Francisco, Lesley College, Harvard University,) James Toland (Opera & Bel Canto; San Francisco Opera, Eugene Opera) Seth Riggs (Vocal technique; San Francisco, CA,) Claude & Julian Chagrin (Physical theatre,) Dr. Arnold Mindell, Dr. Max Schuebach, Jean Claude Audregon, Dr. Lane Arye (Process oriented psychology and the voice; Zurich, Switzerland & Portland Oregon,) Edwin Grey (Bel Canto; New York) Dr. Phillip Woods, Andre Thomas, and John Turk (Gospel music.)

Over the past 25 years, B.Z. has taught singers, actors, performers (and high ranking corporate executives) in the USA, Ireland, The UK, Germany, Switzerland, the Middle East, and Japan. He is a founder and faculty member of the Tuscany Project; an international intensive voice and song workshop that has taken place every summer for the last 19 years in Italy.

B.Z. is also an award-winning filmmaker and director of the Academy Award® nominated film PROMISES, as well as the climate change film project EIGHT DEGREES 34 MINUTES EAST. It is estimated that over 30 million people world-wide have seen his work, with an additional 1.5 million additional viewers per year.

Instructor: B.Z. Goldberg

Quotes: Vocal Technique, Interpretation, Choral Work

B.Z. is hands down the most inspiring voice teacher I have ever seen at work. He goes very deep very quickly and helps students find a way to access their personal power in the voice with increased freedom, and remarkable ability to connect to the story of their song or monologue.

Heidi Coleman, Director, Department of Theatre, University of Chicago.

Studying with B.Z. was an extraordinary, enriching, and enlightening experience. He is a gifted teacher who has the remarkable ability to pull the best out of each of his students, regardless of ability or experience. He obviously knows his subject matter well and uses that knowledge to inspire his students to be as precise and as fearless as he is in the exploration of music, voice and song. His work has profoundly informed my own university teaching and professional directing. I would study in any class he was teaching and would bring him to my university to teach in a heartbeat if he only lived in the US and cannot recommend him more highly.

Associate Professor Keeley Stanley-Bohn, Department of Music, Theatre, Interpretation and Dance Central Michigan University

B.Z. has inspired me to develop my own voice further and has also shown to be a great inspiration in my own professional work as a voice teacher, both in Denmark and the classes and workshops I teach around the world. I especially appreciate his deep knowledge of the voice but also of its psychological impact; his energy and his generous approach to the work itself as well as to human beings.

Dorte Koch, Voice Teacher, The Danish National Theatre School

Years on, I am still feeling the effects of our work together. Since then my creativity has just shot up. I've never sung so well, or been so unafraid to explore, and to do that in a live performance context. Every time I go out on stage it's almost irrelevant that there is an audience; I just want to let rip! and the audiences are responding in kind.

Louise Rutkowski, Singer and professional recording artist, London, England (This Mortal Coil, also signed with 4AD Records, CBS Records)

Though I had performed and recorded at Ronnie Scotts, Village Vanguard, Carmillos and Montreux Jazz Festival as well as in every major concert venue in New Zealand, I had a major block with opening up on stage even after a lifetime of singing, I was terrified every time I stepped out on stage. B.Z. and his colleagues at the Tuscany Project are true masters; they helped me to get over my fears and to project and really reach out to the audience and make them a part of my performance.

David Feehan, master voice teacher and professional recording artist, New Zealand

B.Z. is an energetic and inspiring teacher. I have worked with him for 20 years and am still learning and becoming inspired. What I have learned most from him is his direct and honest approach while working on songs with individual students. He is clear, has great musical sense and manages to get the absolute best out of each student, gently pushing them to their limit, but not beyond. I also am inspired by his skills as a choir conductor which he does with unbounded energy and spirit.

Ron Roy, Instructor, The Boston Conservatory (Musical Theater, Performance, Repertoire.)

I can heartily recommend B.Z. Goldberg as a teacher of song interpretation. We have taught together for almost 20 years and I have regularly watched him work and heard his students perform. He has the ability to help students get present and alive while singing, find a dramatic arc and connect personally to material. He enables his students to connect with the hearts and minds of their audience members. B.Z. is a very engaging, passionate teacher and has tremendous personal integrity. His students both enjoy and are challenged by his classes and the improvement they undergo while working with him is sometimes awe inspiring.

It is not only that B.Z. has the innate ability to connect people to their power when performing a song. He genuinely helps singers find the connection between singing and life, on both the level of an individual song, and on the level of a life-path; a way to practice one's art as a singer. It is a labor intensive path for sure, but when songs worked on in this manner are performed, the

singer is completely present and the event is one of true generosity, with the audience becoming as committed, engrossed, and present as the singer herself has learned to be.

Belle Linda Halpern, Cabaret Singer (has sung at clubs and theatres across the globe including New York, Boston, San Francisco, Paris, Munich, and Bombay. The Boston Globe has called her “stunning, both as music and theater.” The Boston Herald hails her as, “Boston’s best singing -actor.”)

When I met B.Z. I had I had stopped performing for nearly 10 years. B.Z. work empowered me to explore and break free from preconceived notions of what I thought singing and performing was supposed to be. Through this work, I discovered my voice again, and gained the confidence and knowledge needed to pursue music as a career. My work with B.Z. was especially transformative since I had come from a very formal, classical style of vocal teaching and production. He taught me that I could use my instrument in any myriad of styles, communicate to my audiences in an authentic way, and most importantly to me, remain safe and healthy vocally. I continue to get inspiration from his work, energy and spirit. I will be forever grateful to B.Z. for giving me the confidence, courage, information and tools to spur me on to pursue my dream of being a working music professional.

Shaynee Rainbolt, Professional jazz singer and recording artist, New York City. Two-time M.A.C. Award winner, three time M.A.C. nominee. Performs in major Jazz clubs in the US and internationally.

B.Z. has an infectious enthusiasm for and deep understanding of human vocal and musical expression. When he is working with people one to one he is intensely engaged with their journey and for him there is only what rings true as authentic expression and a full engagement with what is alive in the voice for that individual in the moment. To that end, when appropriate, he brings in musical, theatrical, visual and emotional triggers for people to enhance their singing, rather than straight singing exercises. This often makes his classes moving and very personal. He is sensitive and knows just how far to challenge people and when to shift gear and support them. Once glimpses of authentic expression have been felt by the student B.Z. then begins to coach in a more conventional way as well, considering how to manage musicality, nerves, stage presence, eye contact, and physical movement during a singing performance. I highly recommend him as a teacher with a powerful and unique approach.

Jenni Roditi, composer. (Recent commissions include the Operas *SIDDHARTHA SPIRIT CHILD*, English National Opera, Conductor Alex Ingram, and *THE DESCENT OF INANNA*.)

Alongside improving my vocal technique, B.Z.'s teaching approach brought me (and many other students) newfound confidence. His ability to recognize fears and sensitively tailor vocal exercises so that singers can overcome them displays an inherent sense of compassion and a deep understanding of human psychology. B.Z. is one of those teachers their students revere and remember with fondness for the rest of their lives. He is a gentle but powerful leader, he fosters trust and humanity, and he inspires us to be fully self expressed. For myself I can say that he didn't just teach me singing technique, he taught me living!

Max[ine] Harman, singer, *The On Fires / Asleep In The Park*. (International touring bands from Melbourne, Australia, dubbed "the bastard lovechild of the B52s & The Sex Pistols. Think: "Flaming Lips meets Blondie, Stereophonics meets Siouxsie & The Banshees.)

[B.Z. and his co-teachers] each bring an exceptional gift and a special style that enables them to tap another aspect of me and of each of their students.

Prof. Pamela Hill, Fitchberg State College, Fitchberg, MA

...creates an unbelievably intense experience of joy and collective belonging while singing.

Christine Adair, International Vocal Coach

B.Z.'s patience, eloquence, and passion make the entire experience unforgettable. Not a single person leaves the room uninspired.

T. Peleg, Vassar College