

## 6/25/20 CI Music Hour Recap

Dear all,

Yesterday, we had a fun and informative session with our guest LaMarcus Miller, a Bass-Baritone singer, song writer and PhD candidate. LaMarcus sang beautifully for us two songs of different genres: [I Got Me Flower](#) and [Beautiful City](#). The first one is an Operatic song and it was performed in A cappella (voice alone). The second is a Broadway number and LaMarcus sang it accompanying himself on piano. In a listening exercise, we found out just how much reading the lyrics prompts our brain and makes us hear the words better. We also discussed that operatic singing style makes the comprehension of lyrics a lot harder than the more colloquial Broadway singing style, due to the fact that, in the operatic singing style, consonants tend to disappear as the singers exaggerate vowels to project bigger sounds.

In an introduction to singing and voice, LaMarcus likened voice to a wind instrument and explained a singer needs to control breath and body rather than micromanaging the voice itself. For him, listening to his own voice while singing consists of only 10 percent listening with his ears and 90 percent feeling the body.

The highlight of the session was a spontaneous singing lesson, in which a couple of our group members volunteered to participate. We could hear their singing voices change with changes in posture and breathing even in the brief exercise. I am adding a recording of LaMarcus' operatic work, "Fallujah" where he played the main character Phillip Houston. I listened a little and found his performance, both acting and singing, is quite moving.

Fallujah: The Opera

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPZ9SHjb40A>

Our next guest is Jordan Morrison, a percussionist, composer and educator. He will join from Tennessee to play drums and other percussive instruments for us. He will also lead a group exercise. Jordan's bio and picture are included at the bottom.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Juri

Photo of Jordan Morrison

**Bio of Jordan**

Jordan Morrison holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Malone University and a Masters degree in Percussion Performance from The University of Akron. As a performer, composer, and educator he has had the opportunity to work with many wonderful and talented people in some very unique places and for some very unique purposes. These experiences range from a stadium performance for a bowling conference to composing the music for a live soap opera and performing in an outdoor tent for a Motorcyclist Revival. Jordan is an avid music lover who also enjoys gardening, hiking, camping, wood carving, and watching soccer. He currently teaches at W.O.Smith Music School in Nashville, TN where he is the Music Education Director.