

Table of Contents

Introduction	5
What Is Contemporary A Cappella?	8
Chapter One – Starting a Group	10
Starting a Scholastic Group	15
Starting a Pro/Semi-Pro Group	20
Auditions.....	22
Getting Your Group Off the Ground	26
Recap	27
Five Questions with Dr. J.D. Frizzell	28
Chapter Two – Vocal Technique for Contemporary A Cappella	31
Pop Vocal Tone.....	32
Vocal Exercises	38
Five Questions with India Carney.....	47
Chapter Three – Arranging	50
First Steps.....	51
Arrangement Prep: Planning Your Arrangement.....	54
Creating an Arrangement	59
Structuring Your Arrangement	71
Using Outside Arrangements.....	78
Recap	79
Five Questions with Ben Bram	80
Chapter Four – Vocal Drumming	84
“Beatboxing” vs. “Vocal Percussion”	85
The Basics of Teaching Vocal Drumming	86
Basic Sounds: The Big Three.....	88
Basic Drills: Establishing Proficiency.....	89
Intermediate Sounds.....	92
Intermediate Drills: Finding Nuance.....	95
Breathing.....	97
Advanced/Miscellaneous Sounds	99
Recap	101
Five Questions with Tracy Robertson	102

Chapter Five – Vocal Bass Singing	106
Range vs. Feel	106
Groove	107
Tone	109
Different Styles of Vocal Bass	117
One Bass vs. Multiple Bases	117
Using a Microphone.....	119
Extended Bass Techniques.....	120
Recap	121
Five Questions with Avi Kaplan.....	122
Chapter Six – Live and Studio Sound	125
Part 1: Live Sound.....	126
Part 2: The Recording Studio	136
Recap	144
Five Questions with Ed Boyer	144
Chapter Seven – Movement	147
Levels of Movement.....	147
Deciding How to Move	150
Purpose and Expression	154
Emotion.....	157
Working with an Outside Choreographer	158
Things to Avoid.....	158
Recap	160
Five Questions with Kristin Denehy.....	160
Chapter Eight – Virtual Choir/Creating Videos	163
Types of Virtual Performances.....	164
Taking Virtual Performance to the Next Level	168
Recap	177
Five Questions with Shams Ahmed	178
Continuing Your A Cappella Journey.....	180
Books.....	180
Organizations	180
Summer Programs	181
Festivals and Competitions.....	181
Podcasts.....	182
Final Thoughts	183
About the Author.....	183