

Jackie Allen and Hans Sturm: Bass Meets Voice  
The Nebraska Project

While living in Indiana, Jackie Allen and Hans Sturm developed a program for Young Audiences entitled Bass Meets Voice. A national organization with offices in 20 states, Young Audiences requires that artists successfully complete a rigorous audition and review process before being selected to participate. The duo's original Bass Meets Voice program was successful, praised for its interactive design showcasing a broad range of music of artists from Indiana, from Cole Porter to Michael Jackson - with the message that you do not need to come from New York or LA to create important music.

After moving to Nebraska and being accepted into the Nebraska Arts Council Artist Roster, the duo began to consider the creation of a similar program and began to research Nebraska musical artists. In his research, Hans discovered that there were a number of artists from Nebraska who rose to national prominence, many of whom became popular in mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. Rather than simply perform works that were associated with these artists, he worked to design a program that would share a little history of each artist and then perform a new original composition inspired by that artist's work.

The Nebraska Project features all-new, stylistically wide-ranging compositions inspired by eight artists including: Fred Astaire, Ruth Etting, Julie Wilson, Neal Hefti, Joe Feeny, Thurl Ravenscroft, Ann Ronell, and Jeri Southern. Additionally, the program includes three original pieces inspired by stories told by American Indians in the Nebraska Territory including the Pawnee, Ponca, and Omaha tribes.