

Text chat for singers with hearing loss, May 4, 2018 — Today, May 4

May 4	12:00 AM
Wendy C.	has entered the room
	12:20 AM
Wendy C.	has left the room
	7:40 PM
Ellen R.	has entered the room
Jan a.	has entered the room
Jan a.	Bob Swain (Justin)
	7:45 PM
Jan a.	Hi Ellen. Janice Rosen will join us closer to 8 p.m. . . . how was your day?
Ellen R.	Having a good day.
	7:50 PM
Wendy C.	has entered the room
Wendy C.	Hi everyone!
	Wendy Cheng here
	Glad you made it here, Ellen and Bob.
	Ellen, where you do you live and do you think soprano?
	*sing soprano?
Christine S.	has entered the room
Ellen R.	I'm in Oakland, CA. I sing alto/second soprano.
Wendy C.	Hi Christine!
	Glad you made it in here!
Christine S.	Hi Wendy
	Me, too Looking forward to this
Wendy C.	How is your CI, singing and piano lessons coming along?
Christine S.	Signing had great improvements with new CI strategy!!!!
Wendy C.	I'll wait for more people to come in and then we can introduce everyone
Christine S.	Piano is lacking practice because of my focus on singing
Wendy C.	I mean everyone can introduce themselves
Christine S.	OK
Jan a.	Hola!
	7:55 PM
Wendy C.	It's only 7:54 here on the east coast
	So Ellen, do you sing professionally?
Jan a.	Justin (Bob) in Washington, DC. Voice and clarinet student at ismw.org – Voice: mostly tenor
Ellen R.	Yes I'm a jazz singer but I haven't been able to hear well enough to do a concert in 2 years.
Wendy C.	Never mind, Ellen. I see that you are a vocal jazz instructor
	But Ellen, you still hear well enough to teach?
janice r.	has entered the room
janice r.	hellow

Wendy C.	Hi Janice! Glad you made it.
janice r.	Hi wendy
Wendy C.	We'll wait two more minutes
janice r.	i see a few others in the room . hello all
Ellen R.	Yes pretty well but I miss a lot, especially when I'm playing piano.
Wendy C.	Ellen, do you wear hearing aids at all?
	or any kind of hearing device?
Ellen R.	Yes I do. Widex.
janice r.	i used to where widex. now i have resounds
Ellen R.	How are they?
janice r.	pretty good. i can match pitch better now
	8:00 PM
janice r.	and also hear the accompanist better now
Wendy C.	ok. You need some kind of assistive listening device to hear your students. I use them for my viola lessons.
Ellen R.	the problem for me is that when I wear HA I can only hear myself really loud so it's hard to sing with other or with my band.
janice r.	i hear myself really loud too
Ellen R.	what device do you use with your students?
Wendy C.	Anyway, it's 8:00 pm. Let's go around and introduce ourselves. I'm Wendy, and I'm really the hostess for this chat. I wear bilateral cochlear implants from Advanced Bionics and my primary instruments are viola and handbells. But I took voice lessons for one year, so I have an idea of what singers do.
janice r.	i am a student
Wendy C.	I think with the exception of Ellen every one here is an amateur.
	Let me add that when you introduce yourself, also say where you live
janice r.	i am a student and have been taking formal voice lessons for the past 5 to 7 years. lost count
Wendy C.	I'm from the suburbs of Washington DC, in Maryland.
janice r.	i live in washington dc
Wendy C.	Christine?
janice r.	am taking music lessons at the international school of music in bethesda md
Wendy C.	same as Bob (Jan. a)
Jan a.	Justin (Bob) student at ismw.org Voice: Tenor. no hearing aids – hearing loss is in high frequencies.
Christine S.	I am a former singer relearning how to sing with bilateral cochlear implants from Puyallup, WA (seattle area)
Wendy C.	Christine, did you use to sing professionally? or just as an amateur singer?
	8:05 PM
Wendy C.	Ellen?
Christine S.	No, my singing was in high school, I was kicked out of the school of music after one semester in college because they said I didn't hear right....I got hearing aids one year later
Wendy C.	Wow Christine – that must have been devastating You were hoping to majoring in vocal performance?
Ellen R.	I'm in Oakland CA and I'm a professional jazz singer, vocal coach and choral director. I wear 2 hearing aids.
Wendy C.	Which model, Ellen? Widex 440?
Christine S.	Yes, I wanted to be a junior high school choir director! they were my favorite people
Ellen R.	yes Widex. I think that' the model. Got hem last year.

Wendy C.	Great! I'm going to throw out some questions for you all. Here's the first question.
	What is your biggest challenge singing with a hearing loss?
janice r.	confidence that i will hit the right note
Christine S.	Mine was pitch perception of my own voice. What I heard was different from what hearing people (voice coach) heard
janice r.	same with me
Wendy C.	yes, Janice, developing muscle memory is a lifelong challenge for hearing-impaired singers.
	Christine, can you sing in tune with the piano?
Ellen R.	I can't hear anything but myself so I end up having to sing really softly to hear accompaniment or other singers.
Christine S.	I have to say yes, now, just recently I got a new CI strategy that allows me to hear exactly what IU'm singing previously what sound\ed right to me was not right
Wendy C.	What is this new strategy called, Christine?
	(Excuse Christine and me – both of have the same cochlear implants so I am curious).
Christine S.	It is a linear strategy instead of an automatic gain strategy
Jan a.	Justin (Bob): For future sessions, perhaps each one establish an online file to point recordings of our individual performances solo or in a group? We can share URL's or maybe establish a common online document for the group.
Wendy C.	ok, Thanks you can explain to me later so we won't bore everyone else here.
	8:10 PM
Wendy C.	For our next meetup, we are going to try to use a new conference software called Zoom.
	this will allow us to include video
Christine S.	ok Wendy on strategy explanation
Wendy C.	those of us brave enough to sing in this small group will gets lots of support. :-)
	Ok, as I was saying, I took singing lessons for one year.
	I knew I was not going to be able to hear my instructor and the piano from where I was expected to stand, so I used assistive listening devices a lot
	A company called Etymotic Research makes a system called the Companion Mlc system. It has one receiver and 3 transmitter.
	so I would put one transmitter on the piano, clip one to my instructor's collar and I would wear the receiver.
	I asked my audiologist to do a program so 50% of what I heard came from telecoil (connected to the receiver) and 50% was regular microphone.
	this is called 50-50 mix
	that was my solution to the problem of having to hear the piano – to try to hear my voice also and to hear the instructor.
Christine S.	I had to go to a 75/25 because my own voice still drowned other sounds out but not using ALDs
	8:15 PM
Christine S.	just streaming accompaniment for practice
Wendy C.	Ok, thanks for that explanation, Christine!
Ellen R.	the receiver was connected to a hearing aid?
Wendy C.	Next question: What did you wish your voice instructor was aware of in teaching hearing-impaired students how to sing?
	Yes, Ellen. Does your hearing aid have telecoil capabilities?
Ali Z.	has entered the room
janice r.	hi ali
Wendy C.	Hi everyone, please welcome Ali Zimmerman from Indianapolis.
Ali Z.	Good evening!

Ellen R.	yes it does. what is the cost of the system?
Christine S.	My teacher, Ted, knew that I used CIs to begin with and he has been very open to learning understanding the technology
janice r.	my voice teachers were and are very understanding
Wendy C.	Ali sang until she lost her hearing. Ali now is bimodal – CI in one ear and hearing aid in the other ear. Right, Ali?
	Ellen, the cost of the Companion Mic varies. Depends on whether you get the 2-transmitter version or the 4 transmitter version.
Christine S.	cool, my mistake was singing all the time I was deaf and developing really bad habit, singing incorrectly out of tune, and mislearning melodies
Ali Z.	Yes, Wendy. Finally bimodal after 17 years of just a single hearing aid. I've found adding the CI to make a huge difference in my confidence.
Wendy C.	Sorry, I have the numbers wrong. the 3 transmitter version or the 1 transmitter version . . .
	I purchase the 3 transmitter version which cost somewhere between \$900 and \$1000
Christine S.	I have been going through a real challenge of unlearning and having to always be focused when singing
Wendy C.	I think the 1 transmitter version is cheaper
Ellen R.	Got it. price range...?
Ali Z.	Having an understanding teacher who is willing to work outside the box to help you learn is imperative. I went through a couple of different ones before I found one that got it and made it work for me.
	8:20 PM
janice r.	yes having an understanding teacher is very important
	my teachers were always willing to try new things
Wendy C.	Ellen: Give me minute to dig through my emails and I'll get you the exact price information
	Yes Ali, finding the right teacher is sometimes challenging
	Not many singing teachers have experience teaching people who have hearing loss
Christine S.	I also have to be really aware of my challenges, how they impact me....a lot or aural rehabilitation because of poor listening skills when singing
Ali Z.	I think that's probably true whether you are deaf or hearing, honestly. You have to have a connection with your voice teacher.
janice r.	true, ali
Wendy C.	Ok, here is the third question. How do you develop muscle memory in the throat to sing from one note to another one pitch?
	*on pitch
janice r.	solfege practice
Ali Z.	practice practice practice!
janice r.	listen to yourself with piano
	one note at a time
	like learning to walk a mile
	one step at a time
Christine S.	I've done a lot of work on finding my resonant space....when I hit that comfort zone I sing in tune better
janice r.	use visual feedback from tuners
Ali Z.	yep, have something – either a person or a piano or a visual tuner to make sure you are getting it correctly.
Wendy C.	Yes, normally, I use a tuner app called Tunable to play on pitch on the viola, but I prefer to sing with the piano to ensure I am on pitch
Christine S.	yes Janice....Tuners are very helpful
Ali Z.	Christine – yes! I get that too. When I find the comfort area it becomes more of a matter of just trusting myself that I have it.
janice r.	yes my teacher tells me i have to trust

Christine S. I hear a lot of overtones in the piano, but much with program changes

janice r. breathe right .. from the stomach and trust

Wendy C. Christine, how do you know when your voice is in the resonance space?

Christine S. there is no tension...when I'm out of that space I experience tension in various parts of my head...throat, upper mouth, even in my tongue

8:25 PM

Wendy C. Next question . . . are there specific genre of music which are easier to sing than other genres?

janice r. not sure.
i like classical so that is easier for me

Christine S. my voice teacher tells me when he hears it and I try to hang on to it inpractice

Wendy C. My instructor had been learn to sing Broadway music, and was going to start me on learning Italian songs

Ali Z. I think it depends on your voice, range, and style. And in my case as I learned to sing prior to my hearing loss, those styles are easier of course.

janice r. my first teacher told me that italian would be the best for me so we did mostly italian and english

Wendy C. But why did he say Italian would be better for you, Janice?

Christine S. I choose a lot of broadway music. I find alot of pop does not work with my voice. We are going to try to some folk music to see how I do with that

janice r. then with my 2nd teacher i branched out into more french and german
now i am on my third voice teacher

Ali Z. I do find the standard Italian arias to be the easiest. Perhaps because I've been singing them for as long as I've been singing, but I find singing not in English helps me open up better. My preference is to sing Broadway or pop though.

janice r. i am doing opera now

Wendy C. Of interest to everyone here: Janice was born with a hearing loss, and I lost it gradually as a child.

janice r. i was born with normal hearing bug it got worse over time

Wendy C. Thanks for correcting, Janice!

Christine S. i went from hearing to deaf between the ages of 10-44

janice r. i started losing it gradually and then an operation as a teenager caused a big loss of hearing

Jan a. Justin (Bob): Currently I'm using Broadway musicals and Irving Berlyn

Ellen R. Mine was sudden hearing loss 2 years ago in my left ear.

Ali Z. Mine was also sudden when I was 23 - right ear first, then left ear two years later. almost 20 years ago now.

Wendy C. I think those who lost their hearing in adulthood have it easier than those of us who lost it as children.

Ali Z. definitely.

Wendy C. you never lose what you already know in terms of breathing, vocal control and range. It's that you do them differently

janice r. true

8:30 PM

Wendy C. I had to learn about my head voice and chest voice and learn to feel them during that year of voice lessons
New question: Do any of you sing in a choir or some kind of vocal ensemble?
If the answer is no, why not?

janice r. i do once in a while but not at present. it is a big challenge

Christine S. That is my goal at this point....Ted directs the local sweet adelines and thinks ill be ready to try singing with them in the near future~

janice r. i need to depend on the other singers being on key

Wendy C. I keep wondering if I should join the adult choir at my church.

janice r. try it and see

Wendy C. Very cool Christine!

Ali Z.	I don't currently, but I have done so in previous years. I much prefer solo singing because trying to both be on my game and blend with other people is really challenging for me.
Christine S.	I find I sing best with another voice to follow
janice r.	i prefer solo singing too
Christine S.	so I'm hoping I'll have that in the choir
Ali Z.	but to be fair, that was true for me when I was hearing too!
Wendy C.	Is the Sweet Adelines an a capella group, or do you sing with a piano accompaniment?
Christine S.	a capella barbershop style ;-)
Wendy C.	Wow, Christine.
	Sounds like fun!
	I think if I can get the choir director to let me sing alongside a strong singer, and if the singer doesn't mind wearing my Companion Mic transmitter, I might consider joining the church choir.
	Or a community choir
janice r.	good luck
Wendy C.	Yeah.
Ali Z.	That is a good idea, Wendy.
	8:35 PM
Wendy C.	I know I can sing in tune during church services.
	The problem is I am currently doing too many musical activities now.
Christine S.	it will be interesting to see if I need some help picking up the voice(s) i need to follow
Wendy C.	Yes Christine – if I understand correctly, a barbershop style means you are the only person singing your part?
Ali Z.	That is an interesting concept to me – my previous years I was the singer that the others would follow. I wonder how it would be for me now.
Christine S.	it is a barbershop chorus so groups sing the different parts so I will have others near me singing the same part I am
Wendy C.	Oh, it is a chorus, not a quartet. Got it.
	It would be cool if I can get everyone in one room just to try singing together. Maybe we'll try that next month via video
	:~)
janice r.	yeah that would be nice
Wendy C.	We'd need good headsets for that to work.
Ali Z.	would definitely be fun to try!
Wendy C.	I mean headsets that plug into the computer
Christine S.	sounds scary to me~
Wendy C.	I know
janice r.	but it is for fun
Christine S.	I can stream with my compilot
Wendy C.	Right, I can stream with my compilot also
Ali Z.	I've found the compilot to have a delay, but if we all do it that way it could work!
Wendy C.	Yeah, sometime I have a delay on mine as well.
	8:40 PM
Jodi V.	has entered the room
Wendy C.	One thing I'd like this group to do is to collaborate on an article titled "What I Wish My Singing Teacher Knew about Teaching Singers with Hearing Loss" for AAMHL's newsletter June issue.
Jan a.	View paste

Phonak ComPilot II For Venture & Belong Hearing Aids
<https://www.hearingdirect.com/us/phonak-compilot-II.html>

Wendy C. Jan a. – Advanced Bionics cochlear implants cannot use ComPilot II

janice r. nice idea wendy

Wendy C. we can only use ComPilot 1

Is anyone besides Janice willing to write this article?

Hi Joid!

Hi Jodi!

Ali Z. I'd love to help if I can find the time.

janice r. hi jodi

Wendy C. You live in Ohio, right?

yes, Ali, I forget not only do you work full-time you are also heavily involved with Hear Indiana.

Ali Z. yeah, unfortunately leaves very little time for singing anymore!

Wendy C. (Hear Indiana is the Indiana Chapter of the AG Bell Association for the Deaf.

Jodi V. Yes, I am in Ohio. Hello

Wendy C. Great. And Jodi, do you sing soprano?

Christine S. I'm not sure i have a wish list because my teacher and I work so well together in exploring and discovering what works and what doesn't

8:45 PM

janice r. christine same with me but i think we can come up with something

Jodi V. Yes, I was one in the "bionic" soprano section lol

janice r. like what we wish all teachers know

all singing teachers know

Wendy C. Jodi, are you still trying out the EarLens hearing aid?

<https://earlens.com/>

Jodi V. the molds were made this week so I will get them in about 2 weeks for the initial fitting.

Wendy C. EarLens is a new type of hearing aid that uses light and a lens on the eardrum to amplify sounds

janice r. that is neat

Wendy C. Jodi did they have to insert a lens near your eardrum?

Ellen R. yes that's cool

Wendy C. How do they prevent the lens from moving around in your ear?

Ali Z. they are fascinating. we're looking at offering them at our clinic. I'm really curious to hear how they work!

janice r. does it use an earmold?

Wendy C. I think yes, they use an earmold

Jodi V. Yes, one the ent has to place or remove it. They say it stays on the ear drum like a contact to the eye surface friction I think they call it.

Wendy C. But it appears the auditory nerve has to be functioning for the EarLens to work

Ahh. Thanks for the explanation, Jodi!

8:50 PM

Ali Z. amazing!

Wendy C. It appears that people who have intact cochleas are the one who can benefit?

Ellen R. wow

Wendy C. I'm curious about the criteria for candidacy

Jodi V.	It's biggest claim is that it can provide a wider range of frequencies.
Ali Z.	that is my understanding, Wendy
Jan a.	https://earlens.com/product-details/
Wendy C.	That would be cool if you can hear the lower frequencies well. With my CIs, I have problems discriminating between the notes on the low C string on my viola.
Jodi V.	Yeah they say the light then travels through your natural hearing system.
Wendy C.	Ok, we have 8 minutes left
	New question: Which night is a better night for our chats – Friday night or Sunday night?
Jan a.	View paste
	<p>Justin (Bob): For several years, I sang in the Adas Israel Flash Choir. When we would sit as a part of a large group I would use my digital recorder and shot gun mic for understanding persons seeking throughout the room. (I am also a videographer who depends on my technology to gather better sound than consumer grade equipment can provide. I introduce myself and that I'm recording for my use only and will not place the recording or segments online. I am pleased with the support of the other multi-choirs members and directors.</p> <p>The flash choir has not met for about 4 months and no new announcements.</p> <p>The audiences at different ismw.org session enjoy my animation and strong voice. :-) I enjoy solo as well as choral work.</p>
Ellen R.	my HA can distort loud music and I wonder if these would work better. I can hear lows either.
janice r.	either of those nights work for me
Ali Z.	Friday for me
Christine S.	Friidays are typically ok for me
Wendy C.	I have a singer who wanted to join us tonight, but she is a professional singer with gigs on Friday nights, so I was thinking about moving this to Sundays
	Sunday evening when the AAMHL board isn't meeting
Ali Z.	I usually end up working on Sunday evenings, but I can switch around if that's better for everyone else.
janice r.	i keep sunday nights open for aamhl meetings so that will be fine for me
Wendy C.	That's great, Ali. I'll try to give everyone 2 weeks notice before our next chat
Ellen R.	OK
	8:55 PM
Jodi V.	Thanks
Christine S.	I can also try to make a Sunday meeting. It is just a less structured day and I might not be home. On the West coast it's 5:00pm start time
Wendy C.	Also – I will be sending information about Zoom conference software in the next couple of weeks so you can test it out before we meet again.
janice r.	great.
Ali Z.	I use Zoom regularly. It's a good tool!
Wendy C.	Thank you everyone! Ellen, give me your email address and I'll sending pricing details of the Companion Mic after thi chat
Christine S.	Wendy thanks for the great job moderating this chat!
Wendy C.	*this chat
Jan a.	View paste
	<p>Justin (Bob) I am getting back into activities at arlingtonmedia.org free time may vary.</p> <p>Great to learn more of the technology and individual's input. :-) Thanks.</p>
janice r.	yeah its been a great chat
Ellen R.	Thanks Wendy. ellen@ellenrobinson.com

Ali Z.	definitely, thanks for everything you do Wendy!
Wendy C.	You are welcome. I enjoy moderating chat when I can think of questions.
Ellen R.	great job!
Wendy C.	have a great evening – to sign out, click on Sign Out in the upper right corner of your screen
Jan a.	justin.swain@gmail.com (Justin R. Swain – WASHDC)
janice r.	okay good night
Jodi V.	you said you'll post the chat?
Christine S.	nice meeting everyone!
Wendy C.	Ali and Christine – if you want to help with the article, taht would be good too
Jan a.	has left the room
janice r.	has left the room
Ellen R.	has left the room
Ali Z.	has left the room
Wendy C.	Jodi – all of our transcripts are posted in our members-only area of the AAMHL website
Jan a.	has entered the room
Wendy C.	you need to become a member to access the transcript
Jan a.	has left the room
Christine S.	has left the room
Wendy C.	here is the link
Jodi V.	Ok I'll check it out.
Wendy C.	https://www.musicianswithhearingloss.org/wp/mem...
	here is the instructions for joining and renewing
	9:00 PM
Jodi V.	Thanks.
Wendy C.	 Instructions for Joini...
Jodi V.	has left the room
Wendy C.	turned off guest access