

Inga Swearingen – Guest Clinician  
Faculty Research Grant  
Final Report  
Spring 2010

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## **B. Restatement of problem researched, creative work, or professional enhancement opportunity**

The research grant was written to bring jazz singer Inga Swearingen to Arkansas Tech University as a guest soloist and clinician during the first week of March 2010. It was designed to give ATU students and the Russellville community the ability to hear a high quality jazz artist in concert, and the opportunity for the students to work with Ms. Swearingen in a workshop setting. It was also designed to give Dr. J. Clements a chance to work individually with Ms. Swearingen coaching vocal jazz style.

## **C. Brief review of professional enhancement opportunity, creative work, or research procedure**

During the first week of March, 2010 Arkansas Tech University hosted jazz singer Inga Swearingen. While in residence Ms. Swearingen presented a concert with the Dave Rogers Trio (a jazz trio from Little Rock, AR), performed as a soloist with the Arkansas Tech University and Dardanelle High School Jazz Ensembles, conducted a workshop on jazz improvisation for ATU music majors, and coached Dr. J. Clements individually on vocal jazz performance styles.

## **D. Summary of findings, outcomes, or experiences had**

While Ms. Swearingen was in residence I had the opportunity to witness and learn several things. I:

- ◆ watched her work with a group of students on improvisation, learning the basics of jazz improvisation, and vocal games to help implement these basics.
- ◆ watched her work with professional jazz instrumentalists and learned how a singer puts together a jazz chart for performance.
- ◆ watched her perform with both a college and high school jazz ensemble and saw how she varied her approach and vocal style depending on with whom she was working.
- ◆ worked with her individually coaching several songs in the jazz vocal style, leaning specific techniques to highlight the text and vary the melody within a song.

## **E. Conclusions and recommendations**

In conclusion, I would highly recommend a grant of this type again. I personally learned many new things that helped round out my knowledge as a musician, Arkansas Tech University music students participated in a workshop that gave them valuable information about the jazz idiom, and the ATU and Russellville communities were treated to two entertaining and inspiring concerts.