

POP / JAZZ SINGING COURSE

At MUSICAL ART STUDIO

MAYA NOVA is an accomplished jazz vocalist from Bulgaria who has extensively toured around Europe and Asia. Maya moved to Singapore in 2002 and has held residencies at hot night spots and jazz aficionado clubs. A familiar face in the live music scene, Maya continuously performs in concerts, festivals and corporate events around the region. Singapore's Mosaic Music festival and BMW's "World of Fascination" being examples that repeatedly feature her sultry voice. Currently, Maya is found in the studio, working on a project in collaboration with guitarist and composer Rick Smith. The anticipated debut album will play host to only original tunes and will feature some of the finest musicians from the region. Maya's music comes from the jazz standards tradition and improvisation. She does however integrate some mix of Bossa Nova tunes, 70's soul and R&B, and contemporary classics in her repertoire, always including them with her unique way of improvisational attitude and story telling. She is currently holding the position of an Adjunct Voice Lecturer at LaSalle College of the Arts.

by **Maya Nova**



WHAT MAYA SAYS ABOUT HER TEACHING METHOD

My passion in 'voice capabilities' led me to introduce myself to numerous contemporary vocal techniques and pursue teaching to further expand my development as vocalist and musician.

As I have struggled myself with tension and limited range in the early stages of my performing career, I have become very passionate about introducing proper and healthy vocal technique to my students. True love for singing and expressing someone's 'soul' is a big drive for any performer, but can be frustrating, when lacking a well built instrument.

When introducing vocal technique in my teaching, I refer mainly to Speech Level Singing Technique (SLS), created by the renowned US instructor Seth Riggs and Berkley College of Music Guides.

Through a special set of exercises I concentrate on connecting the vocal registers when keeping the larynx relaxed and stable. Making adjustments in the "breath flow" when needed to ensure that the vocal folds can do the proper transitions without interference from the outer muscles when singing through bridges – the entire vocal range. The important aspect for me is the balance between stable larynx and relaxed breath flow, thus this brings the freedom for greater resonance, awareness and expression.

My knowledge in the field of Jazz and Pop music styles gives me the right tools in coaching students who would like to pursue contemporary music.