

LIBERTY LIBERAL ARTS ACADEMY

Penny Mensik Bio

Educational Background: Bachelor's Degree from Northwestern University

Experience Teaching: 30 years of teaching Voice, Vocal Performance, and Diction in my private studio, 12 years at Larkin High School and 9 years at Heritage.

I was saved at age 13 when I heard Billy Graham speak. I attend Christ Community Church in St. Charles and currently coach the praise team. I've been married for 51 years and have 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

Vocal & Voice Teaching Experience: As a child I sang with my brother and sisters in a performing group until I was 12. I am a member of Sweet Adelines. I have 40 years of experience singing and directing choruses. In 1996 my barbershop quartet, Weekend Edition, won the International Quartet Championship. We traveled the country and went to Europe three times to do shows and teach music schools. In our twelve years together singing we sang on over 100 shows and recorded two CDs. My experience as a champion quartet member gave me the opportunity to teach the Harmony Camp at Ohio State University for 10 years. Close to 400 high school students from 90 high schools all over the country would gather for the 3rd week in August and rehearse. They would learn 4 songs and choreography and perform them singing a capella on Friday night in front of 2000 people. Each year I would teach approximately 275 girls four part harmony. As part of their performance the girls would sing three songs and then join the boys in the camp to sing a combined song. It was the highlight of my teaching career so far.

I have directed several church choirs: Jr. Choir, Youth Choir and Sr. High Choir for 4 years, and I sang on a Praise Team, performing many solos.

In Sweet Adelines I also directed 2 choruses: the Prairie Echoes in DeKalb for 12 years and the Rivercity Sound Chorus in Elgin for 11 year.