

# Facilitator Training Playshop

with No Wrong Notes founder, Melanie Boyd

## MELANIE BOYD

Melanie Boyd has been involved in group singing for over two decades. In 2004, she founded No Wrong Notes, a group-singing model where songs are shared orally. Since then, Melanie has facilitated singing groups in workplace, healthcare and community settings. She also investigates No Wrong Notes' impact on participants, resulting in research she has presented internationally.

Melanie works as a literatures librarian at the University of Calgary, where she also co-founded and co-coordinates the Arts and Humanities for Health and Wellbeing Research Group. Melanie is a poet, with work published in Canadian literary journals.



## NO WRONG NOTES

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UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

This is an event of the  
*Arts and Humanities for Health and Wellbeing  
Research Group*

- Faculty of Arts, University of Calgary -

This playshop is free of charge.

Application deadline: March 31, 2014



## NO WRONG NOTES

"There are no wrong notes, just new notes."  
Cornellya Joss

**Saturday, May 3, 2014**

**10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**University of Calgary**



Photo: Sandy Walker

**Group singing - for the joy of it!**

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# No Wrong Notes is...

..... a group-singing model of *no's* where singers say *yes!* It is non-auditioned, non-performing, a *cappella* group singing for people of all levels of experience. It uses no paper, meaning all songs are shared orally – to deepen listening, learning and connection between singers, and to foster embodiment of individual and collective memory. There are no set singing parts; instead, harmony is improvised, which nurtures ever-renewing sound. There is no judgment, to ensure that participants experience celebration of their singing and of themselves. Singers have no homework between gatherings, emphasizing in-the-moment enjoyment and spontaneity, rather than “getting somewhere.” By focusing on singing for its own sake, and on beauty (a relative term) rather than perfection, individual voices and group sound develop naturally over time.



## Training Details

In this experiential playshop, participants will engage in No Wrong Notes singing sessions, where they will learn basics of the method and tips for choosing repertoire. They will gain an understanding of values underlying No Wrong Notes, as well as challenges, responsibilities and rewards in nurturing them. Participants will reflect on how No Wrong Notes can be applied in a variety of situations, with people of different ages and abilities. Participants will have an opportunity to experiment with skills learned in the playshop.

The playshop will be conducted in an atmosphere of mutual support and co-learning. There will be no Powerpoint presentations or handouts. Rather, participants – individually and collectively – will be given time during the playshop to reflect on and write about their experiences. No audio or video recording will be permitted.



Photo: Judy Mark

Melanie facilitating No Wrong Notes at a day hospice for people living with cancer.

## Participant Criteria

This playshop is for adults who intend to put the No Wrong Notes method into practice. This might mean facilitating a group in one's community or workplace, applying the method (where appropriate) in music or recreation therapy; creating alternative school “choirs”, and so on. In other words, it's for people interested in moving No Wrong Notes into their world, though the ways that might happen are limitless.

Participants require the following skills:

-ability to carry a tune, solo, in the presence of others

-ability to keep musical time

Potential participants are encouraged to reflect on their:

-willingness to develop a song repertoire that they can recall from memory

-willingness to set aside judgment in a singing environment

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## TO APPLY, CONTACT:

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