

# THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2014

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50 CENTS

## Local voice teacher is business award finalist

Barbara J. Simon, voice teacher/coach at Art of Motion Performing Arts Center in Ridgewood, is a finalist in the 2014 Hoboken Chamber of Commerce Business Awards (HCCBA) with her BJ Simon Singing Studio LLC in Hoboken.

Her studio falls into the new category of "Education Provider." This is also the year her book was published *Singing - Body and Soul: A Medley of Fresh Ideas about Musical Theater* - available on Amazon.com. The book has been endorsed by Stephen Flaherty, the Tony-winning composer of *Ragtime*.

Simon was nominated for the HCCBA Award by her students, colleagues, and fellow voice teachers. Daniel Purcell of Oradell, who studies singing with Simon at Art of Motion, contributed one of her nominations. Purcell is now at Ithaca College and works with their all-male cappella group "Ithacappella" - as soloist, ensemble singer, arranger, and executive board member.

Their live video of "The Man Who Can't Be Moved," with Purcell singing the lead, now has more than 25,000 views on YouTube.

The studio version (from Ithacappella's CD *The Party Upstairs*, available on iTunes)



**Barbara J. Simon**

received the "Runner Up for Best Male Collegiate Solo" award at the national Boston Sings a cappella competition in April 2014.

At the same festival, Purcell also won the live performance award "Straight Up Best Solo" for "Only When I Walk Away," which Ithacappella then performed as the opening act for "Rockapella."

At Art of Motion, Simon has also taught local students who perform in the to AOM Spring Fling annual concert, as well as the AOM performance at the "Night of Future Broadway Stars" benefit concert for Covenant House.

**BJ Simon**  
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