

Voice teacher at EMCC is also a vocal performer

by **Megan Gordon** - Oct. 24, 2008 11:38 PM
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Karen Hendricks Crawford is a lifelong vocal performer from Litchfield Park. She teaches a voice class at Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale and private voice lessons from her home. Crawford has a vocal performance at 2 p.m. Sunday at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 13720 W. Thomas Road, Avondale. Here's more about her:

- **Age:** 49.
- **Hometown:** Manistique, Mich.
- **Years at EMCC:** 4
- **Years as private voice lesson instructor:** 8.

Why did you get into teaching?

The money is good. I never thought I would teach, but it's a wonderful way to be a full-time musician. Teaching is great, it's a wonderful way to make music all day long.

What is the most gratifying part about your job?

Sharing personal philosophy, mine and finding out what the philosophy is of the person whom I'm spending an hour with. I think passing that on or creating is one of the most important things I do. I don't think there is enough beauty in the world and it's one thing I can do to bring beauty to the world.

How did you get into vocal performance?

I've gone back and forth a couple times. I am detail-oriented. I am a good manager, but I get burnt out with administrative details. It doesn't really feed my soul. I want to be the doer, not the presenter.

Why do you think it's important to continue singing?

I'm a better teacher because I know how it feels to sing as well as take your singing all the way to a performance. Plus it's a feeling unlike any other. It's a very vulnerable experience to be a performer. It's vital to know who you are and what you have to offer, and it's just fun. It's downright fun.

"After the bell" is a monthly feature that puts the spotlight on deserving teachers in the Southwest Valley. To nominate a teacher, visit afterthebell.azcentral.com.