



Spotlight on Audiologist, Dr. Peg Lisi: The Singing Audiologist

Well, Peg doesn't actually sing to her patients, but she might if you ask her to! We would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little more about her. Her talents as an opera singer bring a unique offering to our patients, especially those with a particular interest in music.

Peg's mother claimed that "she was born singing." It is hardly surprising that, prior to becoming an audiologist, she enjoyed a rewarding career as an opera singer. She sang with regional opera houses and orchestras throughout the country, including San Francisco Opera, the San Francisco Symphony Chorus and Sacramento Opera. Additionally, she is known to local audiences from her numerous performances with West Bay Opera, Pocket Opera and Berkeley Opera in roles ranging from Mozart's Cherubino to Bizet's infamous Carmen.

Peg finally decided that it was time to get a "real job" and went back to school obtaining a Doctorate in Audiology. She's discovered a unique audiological niche in working with musicians, both in the context of hearing conservation and rehabilitation for musicians with hearing loss. Because of her background, she brings to her practice an understanding of the nature of instrumental and vocal sound production and perception. She has researched music-related hearing loss and the secondary



effects it can have. For example, an undiscovered hearing loss in a classical musician can lead to a variety of problems ranging from playing out of tune to playing too loudly. Whether you're a musician or just enjoy listening to music, Peg can help you enrich your experience.

Peg is passionate about the counseling aspect of working with her clients. She leads the amplification workshops in the Menlo Park office where she claims that she learns just as much from her patients as they learn from her during these one hour sessions designed to ease new hearing aid users and their family members into the process of adapting to amplification.

If you haven't yet met Peg, please say hello to her the next time you are in the office. She looks forward to meeting you all.

Fun Facts



- Cicadas have their hearing organs in their stomachs.
- Crickets have their hearing organs in their knees.
- Male mosquitoes hear with thousands of tiny hairs growing on their antennae.
- In World War One (WWI) parrots were kept on the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France because of their remarkable sense of hearing. When the Parrots heard the enemy aircraft coming they would warn everyone of the approaching danger long before any human ear would hear it.
- Fish do not have ears but they can hear. They hear pressure changes through ridges on their bodies.

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What to Expect from Amplification

A Series of Free Classes to Prepare You for Hearing Aid Use
(Select one of the dates for each class offered. Each class lasts approximately one hour.)

Class 1: Adjusting to New Hearing Aids

- Understanding your hearing loss
- What hearing aids can and cannot do
- Adjusting to hearing aids
- Realistic expectations

Tuesday, May 5 at 1:00
Wednesday, June 3 at 11:00
Tuesday, July 14 at 11:00
Wednesday, August 5 at 1:00

Class 2: Coping With Difficult Listening Situations

- Communication styles
- Manipulating the environment
 - Communication tips
- Coping with a poor speaker

Tuesday, May 12 at 1:00
Wednesday, June 10 at 11:00
Tuesday, July 21 at 11:00
Wednesday, August 12 at 1:00

Class 3: Troubleshooting Hearing Aids

- Top ten hearing aid problems and solutions
- Assistive listening devices
- Community resources

Tuesday, May 19 at 1:00
Wednesday, June 17 at 11:00
Tuesday, July 28 at 11:00
Wednesday, August 19 at 1:00

Discussion Leader:
Brook Raguskus, Au.D., FAAA
(Los Altos)
Peg Lisi, Au.D., FAAA
(Menlo Park)

Technology we are Excited About:

Jane: The Lyric, by InSound™, is an exciting new technology, developed here in Silicon Valley that is actually an “invisible” device. Let me explain.



The Lyric is an extended wear hearing aid that is inserted deeply into the ear canal by your audiologist. For most

people the deep placement means the device cannot be seen from the outside. There are some solid practical advantages to the Lyric as well:

- With the sound closer to the eardrum, less amplification is required for better hearing. This results in reduced potential for feedback.
- With the microphones seated in the ear canal, the sound gathering characteristics of the outer ear direct sound naturally to the device.
- Each Lyric lasts approximately 2-4 months in the ear canal. This means no changing batteries or cleaning.
- A special wand is provided that allows you to adjust the volume or put in “sleep” mode at night.



The Lyric is purchased on a subscription that covers one year. The device is replaced as needed during that period. Although the Lyric is an innovative concept, it is not the right choice for everyone. It is designed for people with mild to moderate hearing losses. Also, certain ear canal shapes or sizes do not accommodate the Lyric. Other contraindications might apply. Please contact us if you are interested in this device and we can evaluate your suitability for Lyric.

Brook: I’m excited about the performance of the Phonak Exelia hearing instruments. The Exelia has a state of the art signal processor

that automatically shifts between four distinct programs depending upon your listening environment (quiet, speech in noise, comfort in noise, or music). Manual control is available for those who prefer it.



Exelia also has two exciting optional features. The MyPilot remote control allows the user to point the hearing aids in a specific

direction (front, back, right, or left). This can be a great help in certain situations like restaurants, the car, or meetings when you are interested in focusing on a person on one side of you. The other option is the iCom Bluetooth device. It’s great for people who really want to connect to their electronic world. One of the great advantages of the iCom is it allows the user to hear cell phone conversations or audio through both hearing aids at the same time which really reduces the strain of dealing with background noise. Imagine it! It’s been fabulous watching my patients light up the first time they hear their cell phone conversations through both ears!

Finally, the Phonak line also has two simpler versions of the Exelia hearing aids (Versata and Certena) in order to provide excellent technology at lower price points.

Debbie: Have you ever heard of a hearing aid that plays music? The Mind 440, by Widex, is the first hearing aid to feature a relaxation and tone program. They call it the Zen program. This optional feature actually allows the hearing aid to play random harmonic tones you can listen to at your leisure, for example if you want to relax. This might be a particularly helpful feature for people who suffer from tinnitus.



The Widex Mind 440 is an innovative new hearing aid with several unique features. In their most current technology, Widex has

taken a different approach to listening in noise. Instead of focusing on noise reduction which tends to also reduce speech sounds a person wants to hear, their advanced products employ a feature called speech enhancement. Although listening in noise will always be a problem for most people with hearing impairment, the speech enhancement feature is a step in the right direction.

A fun feature of the Mind 440 is the verbal messaging. This hearing aid will talk to you and let you know when the battery is getting low. You can choose from a variety of languages, too!

Overall, the Mind 440 has a little something for everyone. Even without the optional special features, the hearing aid stands out as an instrument with exceptional sound quality for many.

Upcoming Events:

Please keep an eye out for these exciting events!

- In April we will begin fitting our patients with the Lyric extended-wear hearing aid. Be on the lookout for a letter from us in early April announcing special appointments for prequalification and fitting.
- On May 27, the Menlo Park office will be hosting a day of Mind 440 demonstrations with Dr. Dave Magit of Widex. Please call our Menlo Park office if you are interested learning more about this device.
- Dr. Peg Lisi will be conducting a workshop for musicians with hearing loss later this year. If you think you might be interested, please call and let us know.

