

Improved Vocal Production *Beyond the Basics*

Course Objectives:

- Clarify the physiology of the vocal instrument
- Provide techniques for singers to develop a personal "workout"
- Dispense common myths and misunderstandings
- Help singers explore artistic singing at any level

1. Your body is your instrument! Posture vs. alignment

- The head
- The spine
- The lungs and ribs
- The diaphragm (involuntary!)

2. Breath: our foundation and our fuel

- What kind of breath?
- Inhale *and* exhale
- Legato air-never stops moving-steady, controlled release
- increasing vital capacity
- The innertube-not just for water any more!

3. "Good Vibrations" (a.k.a. healthy phonation)

- Vocal folds as vibrator, not a valve
- Healthy onset
- Moving past kindergarten!
- Muscle bundles: low=thick; high=thin
- Range extension
- Sostenuto tone-an important brick in the wall of sound

4. Space: the final frontier (Understanding Resonance)

- What are our resonators: chest, larynx, pharynx, oropharynx, nasopharynx, head, WORLD?!
- Finding the balance: woofer and tweeter; the "three bears" of resonance: too bright, too dark, just right!
- Understanding the palate

5. Articulation

- No more mushing!
- Understanding the muscles
- The wall of sound

Don't be afraid to play with your voice! Vocal development is as unique a process for each singer as those who choose to undertake it. There are many right ways, and no wrong ways-only learning opportunities!

Moving the audience should be our primary goal. This is best done when the musical/vocal product is free from distractions.

6. Artistic Singing

- Dynamics
- Word sounds-yes, we want them all!
- Inflection
- Color and texture
- If you hold it...

Bibliography

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