

Unit Sound

The art of sharing space

Objectives

- Identify the elements: vocal, musical, and artistic, of a unified performance
- Illuminate common synchronization problems and their solutions

Vocal Unity

- Match posture
- Breath
- Resonating space
- Words/Vowels
- Tone quality and color

Musical Unity

- Pitch: section agreement, place in chord, P-tuning
- Balance/Dynamic
- Tempo/Rhythm

Artistic

- Visual: choreography, face
- Internal dynamics, word inflections
- Emotional intention

Unit Sound

This means that every singer is responsible for every nuance, every vowel formation, every emotion and projection of that emotion, every rise and fall of phrase, every move complete with energy, the satiny smooth delivery of lyrics, right notes, and correct pitch, and the mental and physical preparation to be and do her best.

To maintain this unit, we must, each one of us, be responsible singers, singing as one body, one body that moves together, one body that feels emotion together, one body that projects its image and its goals with unanimity, a strong, united voice.

Anything less may not be satisfying.

Put the "you" in Unit!

Lorí Lyford

Unit Sound

Primary Vowels

Ee (see) - pull tone from top of head

Eh (said) - hand down in front of face, remember to keep jaw loose

Ah (heart) - lift hand in front of mouth/face

Oh (go) - lasso the mouth with finger

Oo (moon) - pull tone from the lips

Secondary Vowels

a (short, i.e. cat)

ih (sit)

uh (love)

ur (urge, girl)

ouh (should)

Diphthongs

ah + ee (high)

eh + ee (say)

oh + ee (joy)

ah + oo (now)

oh + oo (so)

Reminder: Determine length of primary and secondary sounds for all diphthongs and glides

Glides ("Prethongs")

ee + oo (you)

oo + ee (we)

oo + ah (why)

– Strive for even balance of resonance in ALL vowel sounds! –

Other Tools for your Unit Sound Toolbox

- Bubbling
- Humming
- Physical sharing of space