

Girls Just Wanna Have HEART!

Expressive Singing is for Everyone!

I. TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS for Expressive Singing

1. Vocal Skills

- develop a sensible breath plan
- use the first breath to set you up for success and story
- maintain breath support

2. Synchronization/Unity

3. Word Delivery

- vowels
- diphthongs
- consonants
- enunciation

4. Musicality - performance reflects musical intent of the song

II. ARTISTIC CONSIDERATIONS for Expressive Singing

- 1. Lyric Flow** - use of proper word and syllable stress
- 2. Phrasing** - Lyrics are grouped into meaningful phrases which flow smoothly
- 3. Forward Motion** - phrases are connected with energized breath support
- 4. Embellishments** - musical tension is exploited for emotional suspense/release.
- 5. Dynamics** - keep these meaningful, supported, musical and clear
- 6. Tempo and Rhythmic Elements**
- 7. Inflections** - used with volume within a word, vocal textures or dramatization of vowel and consonant sounds; tied to the emotion and lyrical intent
- 8. Energy**
- 9. Finesse and Artistry**
- 10. Characterization**

11. EMOTIONAL COMMUNICATION

- *the essence of expressive singing*
- *happens at all levels when singers deliver from the heart*
- *improves as vocal skills improve*
- *occurs when technical flaws don't distract from the unfolding story*

III. ACTIVITIES for UNITY

diagnosis — prescription

1. Internal Synch: Johnny One Note
2. Tempo: "doot" or "book it"; Dr. Beat
3. Pulse: backbeat vs. downbeat identification
4. Breath length unity: suspended, QB, pause, tempo, personal plan, staggered
5. Rhythms: clap, gesture, book/doot
6. Reducing consonant interference: kinesthetic gesture
7. Cohesive interp, pacing: sing with eyes closed
8. Energy: Sing to 50, 100, 500, 1000
9. Energy: Lightbulb wattage - 50, 75, 100, 150
10. General unity: Right vs. Wrong
11. General unity: Demo group or perform 1/2 and 1/2
12. General unity: Coaching under glass
13. Unity of word sounds, pacing, breath timing: Direct with the Director
14. Tempo, interp, pacing, breath timing unity, choreo timing: silent performing
15. Resonance unity: Use of "Ah" or "Oh" space; space invading arms
16. Gaps in sound or choppy singing: bubble
17. Stylizing: bubble, ssss, right vs. wrong, kinesthetic attachment
18. Jump start emotion: shift face to mimic an emotion

"The focus of the expression category is the evaluation of the performer's ability to communicate musically and lyrically. In vocal music, communication is strengthened by meaningful delivery of the lyrics, musical diction, artistic phrasing, appropriate dynamics, energy, vocal characterization and a projection of sincere emotion."

Judge Category Description Book (JCDB)