

# The Magic of Communication

By Lori Lyford

The Magic lies not in the  
Communication of Sound,  
but rather in the  
Sound of Communication.

By Ned Rorem

*Communicate:*

to make common, belonging to all

With what tools do we communicate a song?

Vowels – Where the song lives  
melody, overtone, harmony, duration

Consonants – Where understanding lives  
clarity, passion, meaning, rhythm.  
voiced  
unvoiced  
liquid/sustainable

Vowels – Where the song lives.

Vowels' responsibilities

melody, overtone, harmony, duration

Vowels need to be matched.

Have a common approach to matching.

The common system used in Scottsdale Chorus

- Sing within your goal posts

- Sing with a relaxed jaw (book space)

- Show a bit of your top teeth at all\* times

- Tongue relaxed, lying flat\* in the mouth

# Elision

To suppress a word sound, typically a vowel.

Running together two or more sounds.

Generally, to promote smoothness of line.

Clarity suffers or irrelevant words appear.

Examples of elision **problems** in song lyrics

Somewhere **rover** the rainbow

In the wee small **Lauers** of the morning

Angel, **lie** will love you for **rever** and for **rever**

Could it be he's the one **Nye** have longed to see?

**Ih fehver rye** would leave you...

It's a great day for the Irish, **shit's** a great day.....



# The Glottal Onset Solutions (gasp!)

Somewhere <o>-ver the rainbow

In the wee small <ho>-urs of the morning

Angel, <l> will love you for <e>-ver and for <e>-ver

Could it be he's the one <l> have longed to see?

If <e>-ver <l> would leave you...

It's a great day for the Irish, <it's> a great day.....

# Consonants

Where understanding lives

clarity, passion, meaning, rhythm.

voiced

unvoiced

liquid/sustainable

# Consonant Pairings

## Voiced

B bee

V vase

Th they

D den

Z zee

ʒ genre

J jump

G good

## Unvoiced

P pea

F face

TH think

T ten

S see

Sh she

Ch chump

K king

Substituting voiced consonants  
for unvoiced consonants in order to be  
SMOOTH

Unvoiced "F" became voiced "V"

Unvoiced "K" became voiced "G"

Unvoiced "S" became voiced "Z"

If they could see me now  
became

Iv they good zee me now

## Other FUN Consonant Hot Spots

Added initial “h” sound

And if I love again *becomes* **HAND** if I love again

I’m in love again *becomes* **HYMEN** love again (really??)

Or *becomes* **HOR**

I *becomes* **HI**

## Other FUN Consonant Hot Spots

Not enough “h” sound

Could it be **EES** the one I have longed to see

Take my **AND**, take my (<sub>wh</sub>)**ole** life too

I’m **ought** to **andle**, **youman** candle

## Other FUN Consonant Hot Spots

Not enough commitment to voiced “th”

Mardi gras parade, **NEN** the masquerade

**NEN** I knew, I would live my life loving you

Who said the words **AT** seem so clever

**NOSE** eyes---- I love **NOSE** beautiful eyes

# Using Punctuation as your Guide

Be “comma-tized”

Cupid is a callin’ , “Hey Jack and Jill, it’s just about the time...”

Who said the words that seem so clever, “Love is forever, come what may.”

If the sun should tumble from the sky, if the sea should suddenly run dry, if you love me, really love me let it happen...



## Emotional Commas:

An emotional or musical change or amplification

You went away, I let you. We broke the ties that bind

Is he standing right here, right now, so close to me

Angel, I will love you forever, and forever, love you with all my heart. Oh, I'll love you whenever we're together.

Love you when we're apart.

Mardi Gras parade, then the masquerade, a stranger in a world so rare.

When in doubt, communicate naturally!

Speak Sing – Jim Casey

Say it three times, as if an orator

Clear but not over-done

Emotionally involved

On the fourth time sing, using the same energy, mouth movement, facial expression, jaw movement

Your questions?  
Challenges?  
Epiphanies?  
Skepticisms?

Let's Communicate!

Vowel Resonance must also match

Ideal Barbershop Sound has a “shape”

3-dimensional rectangular, box – Creates width

With a dome on top – Creates height

A cone pointing forward – Creates a forward sound