

Bathroom Singer Lesson 3 - Pitch and Intonation

Goal: Improve the ability to sing in tune

Introduction to pitch and why it matters:

Listen to the pitch I am singing in the video lesson and sing the same note as me on “lah” to match the pitch. You do not want to be even a tiny bit lower or higher. If you are slightly higher we use the term “sharp”, if the pitch is slightly lower it is “flat”.

Singing sharp or flat does not make pleasant listening but understanding of pitch basics helps us to improve our ear to really listen to our surroundings, whether this be a piano, a karaoke introduction or another singer and start “in key”.

Exercise 3A: **Ear training basics-** matching pitches

1’24 A major scale has 7 pitches.

Sing with me 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 then 8 becomes 1 again an octave higher

An octave is the interval (distance) between one musical note and the next with double its frequency, creating a sense of the same pitch at a higher or lower register

Sing the chorus of “doh a deer” and listen to your voice as you hit the different pitches.

Exercise 3B: “mmm....ooo” on same note 4’45

- ➔ do not let the pitch rise or fall when changing sound
- ➔ Try on each step of the major scale 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

Exercise 1C recap: really listen to control the pitches you are singing

Video 1- 4’48

Exercise 3C: Arpeggio on “yah yah yah yah”

7’15 Use a “yah” sound to hit pitches 1 3 5 1 and hold the last note

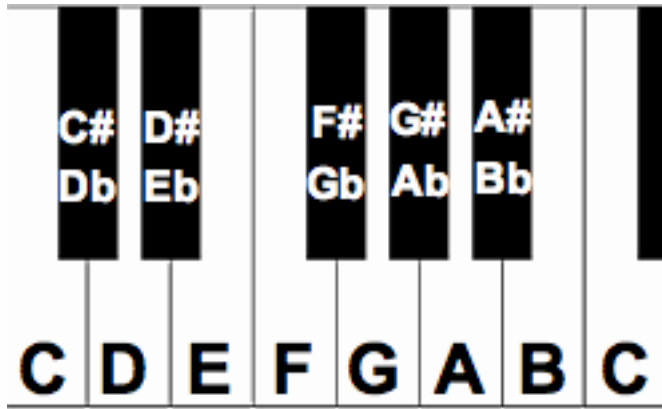
- ➔ ensure you have a deep breath into the diaphragm
- ➔ Take the first note a scale step up and repeat
- ➔ Now try pitching from the piano chord rather than individual notes. Listen for the pitches before singing them.

Exercise 3D: Using an “ah” sound slide between pitches in the following order:

9’30 1 2 1 3 1 4 1 5 1 6 1 7 1 8(1) 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

-> Raise the starting note and start again

-> If hearing or feeling a “crack” in the voice you will benefit from next lesson’s explanation of vocal registers.



Use a piano or a keyboard app to practice singing pitches. Just play your first note and listen for where the next notes should sound.

In the video lesson examples I have started on C. See diagram above to find C just to the left of the set of 2 black key groups. Female voices use C in the middle of the piano. Male voices sing an octave lower (the next C down).

Practice: 5-10 minutes daily ear training and scale step exercises 3A-3D plus exercise 2E “ssh..ooo”

Songs: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Do a Deer – Julie Andrews

Can’t Help Falling in Love – Elvis Presley

Yesterday – Paul McCartney

Back to Black – Amy Winehouse

Fiona Moran