

Bathroom Singer Week 5 - Diction and Articulation

Goal: Improve clarity in singing

Importance of clear diction in singing:

Singing is similar to public speaking in that our audience need to understand us. When we sing we keep the consonants short and crisp, lengthening the vowel sound for an open tone -> more on tone in lesson 6.

Sing the phrase "Oh Danny Boy the pipes, the pipes are calling"

-> shorten the consonants, open and lengthen the vowel sounds

-> "Boy" = "Boh-ee" – keep the first part of the "oi" sound long

Exercise 3B: revisit this "mmm...oooo" imagining straight line ahead where pitch does not waiver. Feel the change in vibrations and face shape when letting the vowel on.

Exercise 5A: Try 3B again with "mmm...aaaaah" 2'29

- really open up for a long vowel
- Drop the jaw but not the chin

Exercise 5B: "ah aw ee oo eh" 5'18

- Play a C on your keyboard or piano app – see lesson 3 for finding C
- Take a large breath into the diaphragm (week 2)
- Move smoothly from one vowel to the other without changing pitch
- Keep each vowel sound long and open
- Repeat a half step higher (play the very next key to play higher notes)
- Practice this exercise from C – A

Exercise 5C: Take the vowels and pitch from Exercise 5C and sing through them with minimal mouth movement. 7'54

- Use tongue and soft palette (lesson 1) to change sounds
- Keep listening to the pitch you are singing
 - ➔ are you matching what you hear on the keyboard or piano app?

Exercise 4E: Revisit animal sounds stepping down Video 4- 8'48

Exercise 5D: Take the "meow" sound 10'39

- First elongate the "ee" sound e.g. "meeeow meeeow meeeow..."
- Now elongate the "ow" sound e.g. "meOW meOW meOW..."
- Feel the different face shapes and vibrations (more on resonance in lesson 6)

Sing a verse of "Sound of Silence" lengthening all the vowels. Choose a starting pitch comfortable for your voice.

***“Hello darkness, my old friend
I've come to talk with you again
Because a vision softly creeping
Left its seeds while I was sleeping
And the vision that was planted in my brain
Still remains
Within the sound of silence”***

Exercise 5E: Tongue twister - Consonants 1 “Red lorry yellow lorry” 13'12

- Play a C on your keyboard or pitch app
- Sing the words “red lorry yellow lorry” on each note up until you reach the next C an octave higher (lesson 3 - pitch)
- Snatch a quick breath into the diaphragm where needed
- Keep the words crisp and clear

Exercise 5F: Tongue twister - Consonants 2 “She sells seashells on the sea shore” 14'49

- Play a C on your keyboard or pitch app
- Use the same pitches as exercise 5E

Exercise 5G: 16'10

- Still use the words “she sells seashells on the sea shore”
- Play a high C (female) or middle C (male) on your keyboard
- Sing the pitches 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 with these words
- Slide the last word back up to pitch 8 then take it a step higher
-> Watch for tricky spots to slide through (lesson 4 blending registers)
- Repeat stepping higher each time
- Ensure your lyrics are just as clear now we are changing pitches

Sing a verse of Adele’s “Rolling in the Deep” emphasising consonants

There’s a fire starting in my heart

Reaching a fever pitch and it’s bringing me out the dark

Finally I can see you crystal clear

Go ahead and sell me out and I’ll lay your ship bare

See how I leave with every piece of you

Don’t underestimate the things that I will do

Sing the chorus of this song connecting words and phrases for smooth transitions

- ➔ Open and lengthen the vowels
- ➔ Keep consonants crisp without accent
- Watch the word “side” -> keep first part of vowel sound long “ah-ee”

We could've had it all.....

Rolling in the dee.....p

You had my heart insi.....de your hands

But you played it to the beat

Practice: 5-10 minutes daily articulation exercises 5A-5G

Sing along to whatever music you like to listen to with a focus on long vowels and crisp consonants. Remember to have enough breath and listen for pitches -> are you singing the notes you are hearing?

Songs: Oh Danny Boy – Traditional Irish – long vowels

Sound of Silence – Simon and Garfunkel or Disturbed – long vowels

Rolling in the Deep – Adele – also great for breath control

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