



Vocal Update 2



Hi everyone. I hope you have been enjoying the sunshine and doing lots of singing. This half term I have been thinking about how to make sure I use lots of expression when I sing. It's not easy but it really makes a difference, helping to make sure our audience understands what we are singing about. So, this update will be focusing on developing our performance skills. Here are some top tips for you!



FOCUS – PERFORMANCE SKILLS!



Developing our skills in this area is so important. A convincing performance really can make a difference in exams, auditions, concerts or shows. However, making sure we use lots of expression can sometimes make us feel self-conscious and worried that we might look silly. So how can we overcome that and give confident, convincing performances?

1. Make sure you understand what your song is about!

For example - if it's from a musical find out about the character and the story. If it's an Art song read the poem and do some research on what it's about so you can successfully tell the story. If it's a song in another language – find a translation!

2. Try speaking your song words out loud



This will tell you where the emphasis of each phrase falls. You could try speaking it as if it were a monologue in a play and see what emotions are in the text.

3. I'm a singer – not an actor!!

Actually, you have to be a little bit of both. Whether you are singing on stage or safe behind a pop shield and headphones, you have to portray that character in order to put the right message of the song across. Think carefully about what your character is thinking or feeling – are they angry, sad, happy, in love? Think about the emotional journey of your song – does it change?

4. What about musicianship?



Tempo, dynamics, articulation, phrasing, pitch – all of these things are really important in creating a successful performance. Make sure you use a score as well as lyrics – that will give you all the details you need about the composer/song writer's intention for your song.

5. Enjoy your performance!!

An audience will respond much better to a singer who is confident and expressive. There's nothing worse than watching a singer who looks terrified. When you perform trust all of the hard work you have put in to learning your song, take a deep breath and then share it with your audience. If you sing with energy and enthusiasm they will enjoy it too.

There are some new resources on the Musica Kirklees website to help you. Mrs Austin has posted some performance skills activities <https://www.musicakirklees.org/resources-for-voice#additional> and Mr Bradnum has posted some LCM Musical Theatre Exam Checklists <https://www.musicakirklees.org/resources-for-voice#g45>. Also on the Voice page are some performances from Mrs Barber <https://www.musicakirklees.org/resources-for-voice#g13>



OTHER TOP TIPS

WARM-UPS

On our Musica YouTube channel and on the Musica Kirklees website, there are lots of videos to help you in your practice sessions. There are some new ones that cover sirening and articulation. Sirening is a great way to gently warm-up the voice at the beginning of your practice. The articulation warm-up will really help you develop clear words, which is crucial for a successful performance. Here's the link to the Musica tutorials playlists. Click on the Vocal ones. Have fun!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIgpnefaWoTluz1Ve-3JKsw/playlists>



SIGHT SINGING 2



I hope you found the first set videos from the **NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIRS OF GREAT BRITAIN** useful along with my rhythm exercises. This time we are going to focus on pitch. Here's the link to the NYCGB website: <https://www.nycgb.org.uk/musicianship> - again there are resources you can print off as well using the link to their free online course. Click on the link and go to the lessons covering tonal centering. Practice each one until you can do it confidently – which make take a few goes. You can also try the simple pitch reading exercises on the musicianship page – under Module 2 Tonal Centering.



When you practice – DON'T FORGET!!

1. Posture
2. Breathing
3. Siren exercises or lip bubbles/trills.
4. Focused warm-ups
5. Work on a song

HAVE FUN!!



Mrs Bennett's Summer Challenge!!

Here's a silly song to make you smile. Why not see if you can have a go and come up with your own crazy actions!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYg7VrwHbrk>

