

# Vocal Practice Tips



Hi everyone. Here are some hints and tips to keep you motivated in your practice. We'll have a specific focus, some general hints and tips and something to make you smile because a happy singer is a good singer! If you have any questions about your practice you can email the Musica Kirklees office and they will pass it on. I will do my best to answer them. Also if you would like to send us a video of your singing you can send it as a direct message to the Musica Mirfield Facebook page #musicakirkleesathome. It would be lovely to see how you are all doing!

## FOCUS – SIGHT SINGING!!!!!!!

Oh no I hear you cry – not sight singing Mrs Bennett!! Most people find this hard – you are not alone! So with this in mind the **NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIRS OF GREAT BRITIAN** have created some really useful resources to develop our general musicianship and sight reading.

### READING RHYTHM PATTERNS

Here's the link to the website: <https://www.nycgb.org.uk/musicianship> - here you will find resources you can print off as well as a link to their free online course. Click on the link and start with their reading rhythm videos (Lessons 1-5). Practise them until you can do them fluently. When you are confident try the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy Rhythm Challenge – just for fun!!  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wlxq-1a\\_810](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wlxq-1a_810). I have also created some rhythm reading exercises for you to try which will be on the Musica Kirklees website.

## WARM-UPS

On our Musica Kirklees YouTube channel there are some videos to get you started. There are some new ones focused on vocal sirens and articulation. Crips, clear words are essential for good performance, so I hope you find them helpful . Here's the link to the vocal tutorials playlist  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLU7ZU3i58ey-4pkk13lK\\_xc5\\_RE5k1tnj](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLU7ZU3i58ey-4pkk13lK_xc5_RE5k1tnj)



## NEW SONGS

You may be at the stage where you need some new repertoire, but you are not sure where to start. If you like Musical Theatre and Disney the ABRSM have just released an updated song list for Musical Theatre Grades 1-3 and have released the first list for Grades 4&5



Have a look through the lists and listen to some online. Here's the link to the Singing for Musical Theatre webpage <https://gb.abrsm.org/en/our-exams/singing-for-musical-theatre/> you can download both syllabuses there. I was very excited to see some from Frozen 2 and Six on the Grade 3 list as well as The Colour Purple and Moana on the Grade 5 list. If you are in year 10 and doing GCSE music the Grade 5 lists are a great resource for you.





If you prefer Rock and Pop the Trinity Rock and Pop Vocals webpage has loads of resources as well as the syllabus for all of their exams. <https://www.trinityrock.com/instruments/vocals>. Something Inside So Strong on the Grade 2 list is a great one to develop your skills. There are also plenty of karaoke versions of your favourite songs online

### Tips when starting to learn a new song!

1. Listen to it carefully.
2. If you can, print off some music or lyrics so you can follow along as you listen.
3. Remember when you are picking new songs, singing them should always feel comfortable.
4. You shouldn't be straining to reach notes that are too high or too low.
5. Try and stick with songs that have similar ranges to the ones you have already been learning. Particularly if you haven't been learning very long.
6. If your voice feels tired after singing a particular song it might be that it's not quite right for you at the moment so maybe try a different song or go over songs you have already looked at with your teacher.

## A good practice routine!



When you decide to do some focused singing practice try and follow these steps:

1. Check your posture.
2. Start with some breathing exercises.
3. Try some gentle siren exercises or lip bubbles/trills.
4. Try some warm-up exercises that focus on a particular area – e.g. articulation or pitching.
5. Work on one of your songs – focus on the tricky sections first before you sing the whole song!
6. **HAVE FUN!!**

### Mrs Bennett's final challenge!!

Here's a version of the 'The Cup Song' performed by Kurt Schneider and his team [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6y1aOg\\_UO\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6y1aOg_UO_A)

Why don't you have a go and see if you can encourage members of your household to join in too! (But please use plastic cups!!!!). You could even send it to us at the details above.

Have a good week and keep singing!!

Mrs Bennett

