

Love to Sing Programme 2022

WEEK 4 – PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

- Alignment
- Free and supported sound
- Breathe silently
- Use your diaphragm
- Relaxed, no constriction
- Think vowels!

Nearly there – but what about the performance?

It's critical to express the meaning, not just the words – we need good communication skills. Approximately 70% of all human communication is visual – the other 30% is mainly aural (ie what we've spent the last few weeks on!). So, in order to give a good performance, we need to 'present' the song well. We need to think about:

- telling the story and making a connection with the audience
- delivering the message of a song: conveying its emotions and ensuring the believability of the message
- being consistent across the chorus (i.e. all faces convey the same story)
- putting "colour, commitment and emotion" into everything we do (using the wise words of Gareth Malone)
- singing with 'Zing': delivering the song with energy, focus and flair, using our whole bodies!
- engaging our facial muscles, lifting the eyebrows, exaggerating the emotion of the song through face and eyes, and matching this to posture.

So, how can we start to do this?

- Imagine your audience is deaf – they need to understand your message through what they see
- Imagine your audience is blind – they need to feel your message – put more feeling into the sound you making
- Imagine you are throwing the audience a rope – they will grab it. You pull it tight and make sure it stays tight! Don't give them an excuse to drop it.

Visuals help aural

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- Good posture not only looks good, but is essential for good vocal production (remember week 1?).
- Small body movement is not only permissible, it's essential! This is one way that you can express yourself visually. Body language is a very powerful communicator. It also allows you to 'reset' your body position, and not to become still which could inhibit the free production of sound.
- Facial expression is another powerful communicator – saying the same phrase with a happy face and a sad face delivers contrasting messages (say 'I love you' with a variety of facial expressions and you can show love, happiness, desire, loss, sadness, regret... the list is endless!). A 'lifted face' allows more freedom for vocal production (week 2).
- Raising the cheek bones gives you an 'interested' look – it conveys the impression that you mean what you say – it also increases the size of the resonating cavities within the head. It encourages you think 'up' which is not only good for resonance, but will also help to prevent the pitch from going flat. 'Hang the notes on your cheekbones'.

And finally...

- Singing is a whole body exercise – every part of your body needs to be involved
- We all have the same physical 'bits' – so we all have the capacity to become singers – we just need to learn to use what we've got!
- None of us are 'stuck' with our voice – we can all improve – it's our choice to learn how.
- Good singing is good singing – whatever style you choose to sing.

SO GO FORTH AND SING!