

Unit Approach to Vocal Production

Region 9 Winter "Wonders"land January 26 & 27, 2024

Kim Wonders, International Faculty, Master Director Metro Nashville Chorus

HANDOUT #2

Class Objective: To provide singers vocal techniques and exercises to assist them in developing the necessary skills to achieve a well-produced voice.

Resources

Judging Category Description Book - Sweet Adelines, International

The Perfect Blend - Timothy Seelig

Sing, Baby, Sing!: A Springboard to Artistry, by Darlene Rogers, Dale Syverson & Peggy Gram

The Complete Choral Warm-up Book, by Russell Robinson & Jay Althouse

Unit Approach to Vocal Production

- Proper vocal production is the foundation upon which good sound is built.
- It is the first and foremost requisite to producing unit sound.

The Five Characteristics of a Well-produced Voice

- The voice has consistency, with a seemingly even tone quality from the lowest to the highest tone.
- The voice has both ring, giving a sense of focus to the sound, and roundness, emanating from a throat that is open and free from tension.
- The voice has energy and words flow smoothly.
- The voice is free from tension and has warmth and color.
- The voice is flexible and capable of a wide variety of dynamics.

The Five Elements of Vocal Production

1. Posture

Correct posture is fundamental for proper breathing for singing.

2. Breathing

There is no shortcut to proper breathing, it is the foundation of good singing.
Breathing Exercise

3. Phonation

The action of the vocal chords in speaking and singing

Warm Up #4 - Nng to AH

Musical notation for Warm Up #4 - Nng to AH. The notation is on a single staff in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of seven quarter notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, and G4. Each note is labeled 'Nng' below it. The final note is followed by a double bar line.

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Reminders

- Start on Eb and repeat, going up by half steps
- Keep the jaw relaxed
- Shift to AH when you get to G as the starting note and keep the sound consistent
- No dump age on the low note!

4. Resonation

The amplification and reinforcement of the tones produced

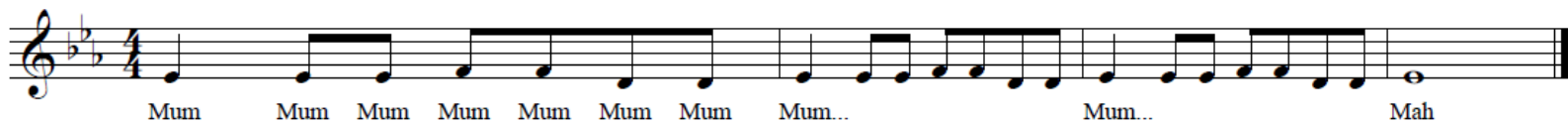
Warm Up #19 - Bubble, Hum, or Ng



Reminders

- Focus the sound. Good for tuning, resonance, unit sound
- Bubble, hum or Nng
- Can also be sung on an 'M' or "N"
- Source - *The Perfect Blend, Dr. Timothy Seelig*

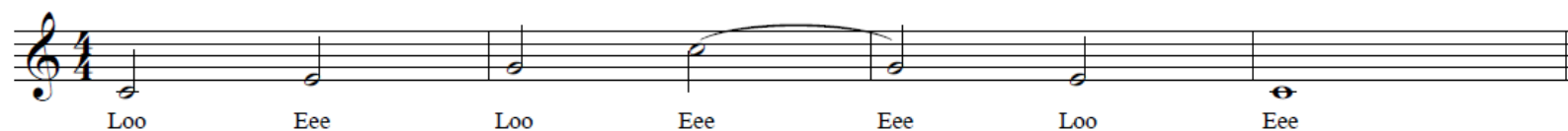
Warm Up #5 - Mum,Mum,Mah



Reminders

- Good mid-range warm up; the "m" helps bring the sound forward.
- Make the sound go somewhere.
- Take an elevated breath

Warm Up #8 – Loo Eee



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Reminders

- Good for keeping forward placement and resonance during ascending pattern.
- Make sure the OO on LOO has space.
- Focus on maintaining forward placement and resonance while descending.
- Careful not to pinch the EE as you ascend.

Warm Up #10 - Ooh-Ooh-Ooh

Musical notation for Warm Up #10 - Ooh-Ooh-Ooh. The notation is on a single staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of 10 measures. The first four measures are quarter notes: Ooh, Ooh, Ooh, Ooh. The fifth measure is a half note: Oo. The sixth measure is a whole rest. The seventh measure is a whole rest. The eighth measure is a whole rest. The ninth measure is a half note: Oh. The tenth measure is a half note: Ooh.

Reminders

- Good for register break, resonance and freeing up the upper resonance.
- The first four Ooh's should be lifted and buoyant
- Focus on a seamless sound from low to high.
- Open to OH on the highest note when you get higher.
- Think about making the sound travel on this exercise.
- Source: *Sing Baby, Sing*

Warm Up #27 Vee-Voh- Vee

Musical notation for Warm Up #27 Vee-Voh- Vee. The notation is on a single staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of 5 measures. The first measure is a quarter note: Vee. The second measure is a quarter note: Voh. The third measure is a quarter note: Vee. The fourth measure is a half note: Ve - ee. The fifth measure is a half note: Vo - oh. The sixth measure is a half note: Vee.

Reminders

- The 'V' brings the sound forward.
- Work on keeping the sound connected on the 2nd measure.
- Maintain the singing space as you ascend.

Warm Up #37 - Zee-Eh-AH

Musical notation for Warm Up #37 - Zee-Eh-AH. The notation is on a single staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of 10 measures. The first measure is a quarter note: Zee. The second measure is a quarter note: Eh. The third measure is a quarter note: Eh. The fourth measure is a quarter note: Ah. The fifth measure is a half note: Ah - a. The sixth measure is a half note: a - a. The seventh measure is a half note: a - a. The eighth measure is a half note: a - a. The ninth measure is a half note: a - a. The tenth measure is a half note: Ah.

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Reminders

- Great interval work for ear training
- Zee Brings the sound forward.
- Strive for connection of sound.

5. Articulation

The process by which sounds are shaped

Warm Up #25 - Zing-Uh-Mah-Mah

Musical notation for Warm Up #25 - Zing-Uh-Mah-Mah. The notation is on a single staff in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are: Zing Uh Mah Mah Zing Uh Mah Mah Zing Uh Mah Mah Zing Uh Mah Mah Zing Zing Zing.

Reminders

- Good for articulation.
- The 'Z' brings the sound forward.
- Try to keep the consonants forward.
- Work for a consistent sound on the last three 'Zings'.

Source: *The Complete Choral Warm-up Handbook* by Russell Robinson & Jay Althouse

Warm Up #28 Minnie Minnie

Musical notation for Warm Up #28 Minnie Minnie. The notation is on a single staff in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are: Min - nie Min - ie Min - nie - Min - nie Ming Ming Ming Ming What - a pi - ty What - a pi - ty What What What What.

Musical notation for Warm Up #28 Minnie Minnie (continued). The notation is on a single staff in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are: Zoom Zoom Zoom Zoom Za - ah - ah - ah Ah.

Reminders

- The 'M' brings the sound forward.
- In the 2nd measure keep the sound connected, don't sing hard 'T's.
- Keep the sound connected on the 'ZA-AH'.

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INTERVAL EXERCISES

Warmup #32 Scale Pattern

1 1 2 1 1 2 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6

7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 8 8 7 8 8 7 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 4 5 6 7 8 8 7

6 5 4 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Reminders

- Great interval work and ear training
- Don't breath after '1', keep '1' part of the journey, not a destination
- Good exercise for developing 'sneak' breathing

Warmup #34 12345-88-77

1 2 3 4 5 8 8 se-ven se-ven 6 6 5 4 4 3 3-3-3 - 2 2 1 4 4 3 6 6 5

4 4 3 3 - 3 - 3 - 2 2 1

Reminders

- Good for ear training
- Remember to sing 2, 3, 6, 7, on the high side
- Sing the descending pattern with lift

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Warmup #35 12345-54321

1 2 3 4 5 5 4 3-2 1 1 5 4 5 3 5 2 5 1 5 4 5 3 2 1 1 5 4 5 3 5 2 5 1 5 4 5 6 7 8

Reminders

- Good interval work for ear training
- Careful to not sing heavy on the '1'
- Good exercise for explaining off-beat in measures 3-6
- Add variations with clapping on '1' or '5'

Warmup #33 1-3-5-8-5-3-1

one three five eight five three one one four six eight six four one

two four five seven five four two one three five eight five three one

eight five three one three five eight Eight six four one four six eight

seven five four two four five seven eight five three one three five eight.

Reminders

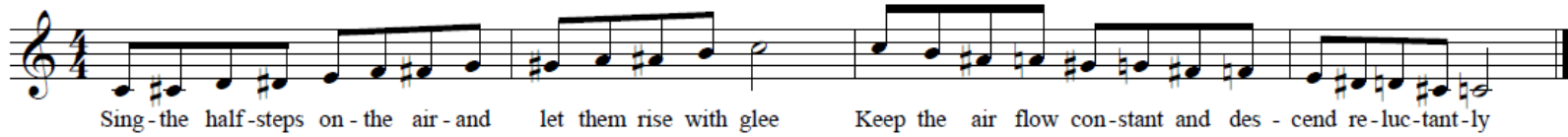
- Good for ear training
- Focus on singing the arpeggio with air and lift
- Keep the sound connected

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Warmup #36 Chromatic

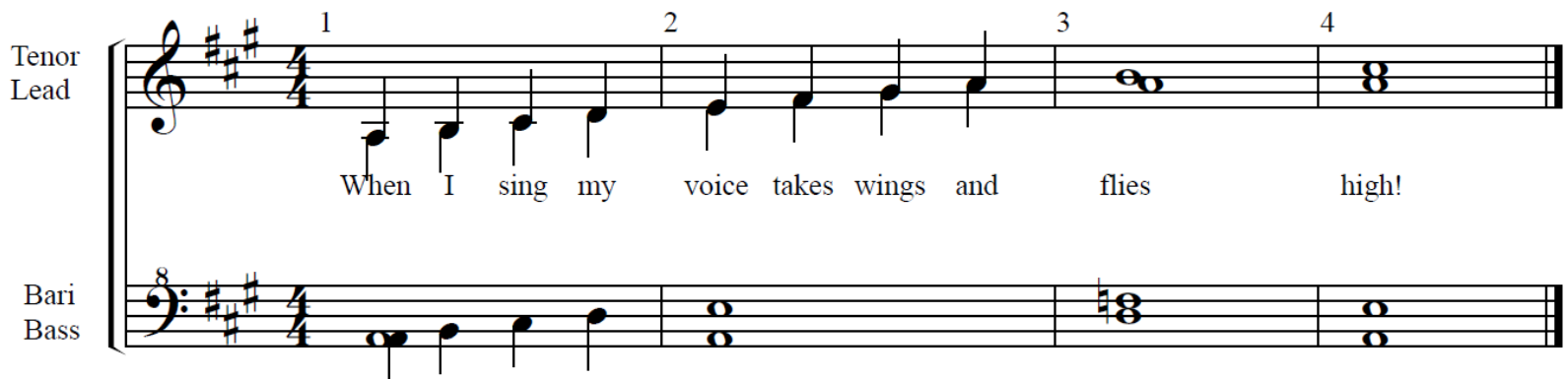


Musical notation for Warmup #36 Chromatic, featuring a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time. The melody consists of a series of half-steps, both ascending and descending. The lyrics are: "Sing - the half - steps on - the air - and let them rise with glee Keep the air flow con - stant and des - cend re - luc - tant - ly".

Reminders

- Great interval work for ear training
- The words remind us to sing the descending pattern with lift and air
- Source: *Sing Baby, Sing*

Warmup #38 When I Sing



Musical notation for Warmup #38 When I Sing, featuring two staves: Tenor Lead (treble clef) and Bari Bass (bass clef). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 4/4. The Tenor Lead part is divided into four measures, with lyrics: "When I sing my voice takes wings and flies high!". The Bari Bass part provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are indicated above the Tenor Lead staff.

Reminders

- Bases hold "When—n, vo—ice, flies high"; Baris hold "vo—ice", flies high.
- Great for interval work and tuning
- Good exercise to practice sneak breathing and vowel matching