

PVI HANDOUT

Characteristics of Good Vocal Sound

- ❖ Freely produced
- ❖ Pleasant to listen to
- ❖ Loud enough to be heard easily
- ❖ Rich, ringing, resonant
- ❖ Energy flows smoothly from note to note
- ❖ Consistently produced
- ❖ Vibrant, dynamic, alive
- ❖ Flexibly expressive

From *The Diagnosis and Correction of Vocal Faults* by James C. McKinney
Published by Broadman Press, Nashville, TN 1982

Key Points to Remember

We sing with ONE BALANCED VOICE although sound is resonated in the chest, throat and sinus/bones of face.

BREATHE HORIZONTALLY (side to side stretch), allowing the ribs to move up and out and remain suspended and buoyant (expanded ribcage).

Think of the inside of the mouth as an amphitheater and ARC THE BREATH up and into the “shell” at the back of the throat.

RELEASE THE BREATH USING PROPER, GENTLE AIR PRESSURE AND ENERGY through that same tall and wide space, past the teeth and lips and away from the body. Feel the sound going forward while feeling yourself controlling the release of breath. Don't push or force the breath out.

DON'T PRESS OR PUSH THE VOICE. Tension and loss of pitch are created when you try to “make” sound happen.

Use the MISCHIEVOUS SMILE to engage and lift the cheek muscles at the nose. These lifted, engaged cheeks stabilize the forward vowel placement and energized sound.

ENERGIZE THE TOP JAW AND AREA BEHIND THE EYES UPWARD, while keeping the tongue and jaw relaxed in a gently lowered position. Pulling the jaw down and opening the mouth too wide causes tension and the sound to move back into the mouth and lose pitch.

To sing freely, KEEP THE BODY FLUID, using soft knees and allowing the legs to move. Don't be a voice on a stick.

ALL VOWELS HAVE FORWARD PLACEMENT with the lips gently lifted off the teeth. Covering the teeth with the lips or pursing the lips causes the tone to move back into the mouth and lose pitch.

Credit: All the authors on voice and breath work I've read and everyone I've ever learned from and practiced on during the past 46 years!

Recommended addition to your library: *The Bel Canto Buzz* by Debra Lynn, 2012