

FROM BREATH TO BRILLIANCE

- EXPLORING THE MECHANICS
OF THE SINGING VOICE

MARIE HAGEN

the

WESTERN

VOCAL

ACADEMY



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*"The voice is
the mirror of
the soul"*

MARIE HAGEN

HOW THE SINGING VOICE WORKS

Respiration (Breathing): Singing begins with the breath. The diaphragm, a dome-shaped muscle beneath the lungs, contracts and descends, expanding the lungs and creating negative pressure, which draws air in through the mouth or nose. This air is then regulated and expelled in a controlled manner to create sound.

Phonation: The process of sound production occurs in the larynx, commonly known as the voice box. Within the larynx are the vocal folds (also called vocal cords), which are mucous membranes stretched horizontally across the larynx. When air from the lungs passes through them, they vibrate, producing sound.

Resonance: Once sound is produced by the vocal folds, it travels through the throat and into the oral and nasal cavities. These cavities act as resonating chambers, amplifying and shaping the sound waves into specific frequencies and tones. Different shapes of these cavities produce different vocal timbres.

ARTICULATION

Articulation: Articulators such as the tongue, lips, and palate shape the sound produced by the vocal folds into recognizable speech sounds or singing vowels and consonants. These articulators play a crucial role in forming words and conveying meaning in singing.



Muscular Coordination: Singing involves precise coordination of various muscles in the respiratory system, larynx, throat, and mouth. Muscles control the tension and positioning of the vocal folds, regulate airflow, and adjust resonance, pitch, and volume.

Pitch and Melody Control: The pitch of the singing voice is determined by the tension and length of the vocal folds, which are controlled by muscles in the larynx. Pitch changes are achieved by altering the tension of the vocal folds and the airflow rate. Melody control involves moving smoothly between different pitches while maintaining tone quality and accuracy.

"Each singing note adds a brushstroke painting the canvas of emotion."

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VOCAL EXPRESSION

Expression and Interpretation: Beyond the technical aspects, singing also involves emotional expression and interpretation of the lyrics. Singers use dynamics, phrasing, timing, and tone color to convey the intended mood, message, and artistic interpretation of a song.

"Each singing note adds a brushstroke painting the canvas of emotion."

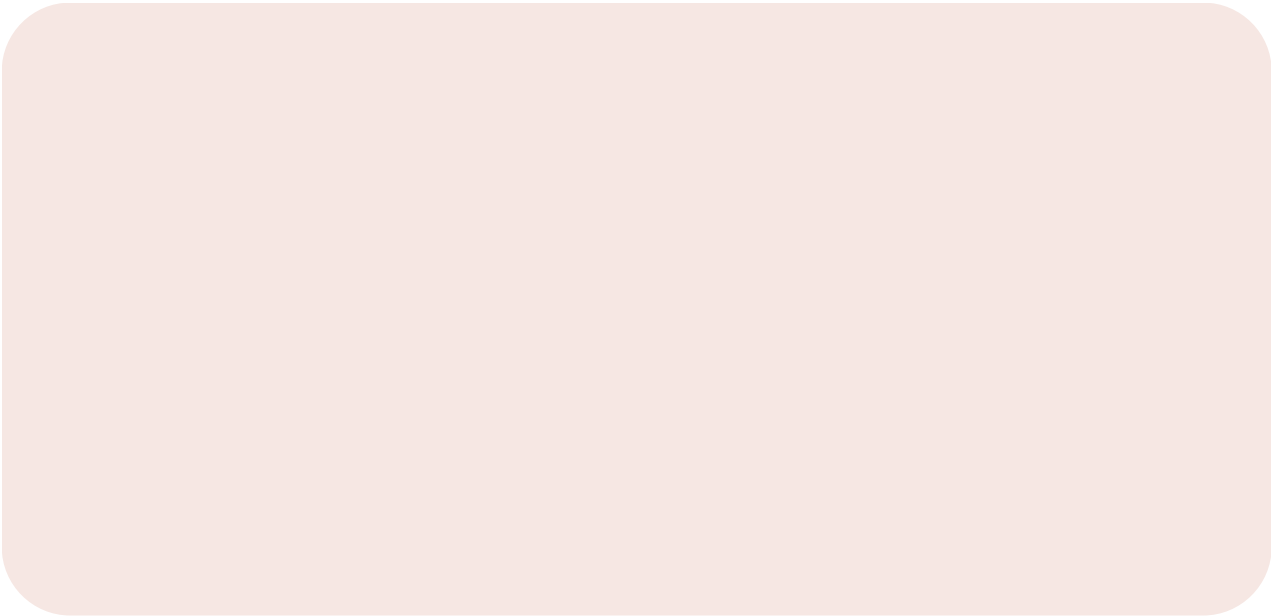
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Overall, the singing voice is a highly coordinated and versatile instrument that requires training, practice, and an understanding of the various physiological processes involved in producing sound.

QUESTION SHEET

Think of your own voice

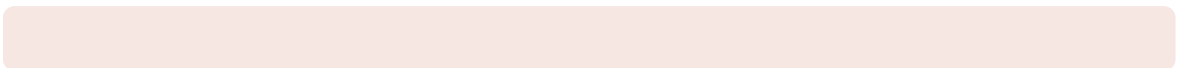
Which of these different parts of vocal technique are your strengths or weaknesses, according to you?



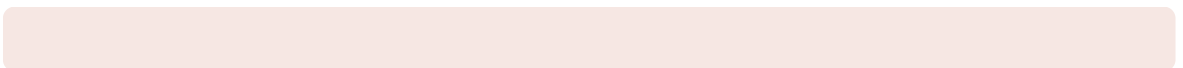
Think about your student 's training with you

Look through the different parts of the voice and vocal training mentioned in this ebook. In what parts can you improve as a teacher?

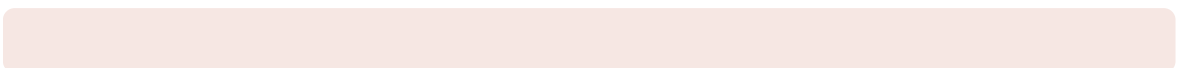
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