



New York American Choral Directors Association Fall Conference

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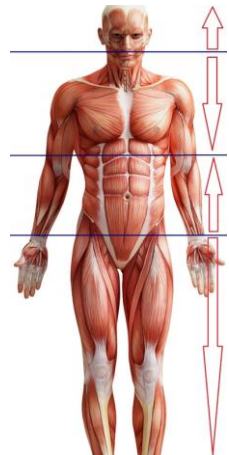
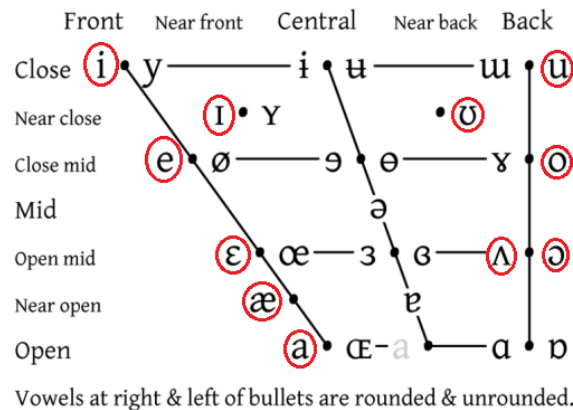
WHAT IS VOICE BUILDING?

RESPONSIBILITIES/TOOLS of the CONDUCTOR-CONSTRUCTOR (*teacher!*)

- *Primum non nocere* (First, do no harm!)
- Listening ears
- Watching eyes
- The “right” amount of positive pressure and motivation
- Knowing our singers’ voices *individually* and our singers as *individuals*

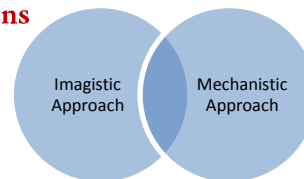
SEVEN CHARACTERISTICS OF IDEAL CHORAL SINGING

1. External posture
2. Internal posture
3. Deep, silent inhalation
4. “Athletic” breath support
5. Singer’s “embouchure”
6. *Chiaroscuro*
7. Two-step audiation



THE VOCAL “PHYSICIAN”: Symptoms → solutions

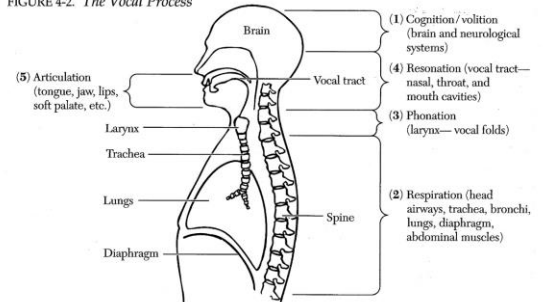
1. Hear the vocal/tone quality fault (symptom)
2. Diagnose the problem
3. Prescribe antidotes
4. Practice and reinforce the prescription (solution!)



VOCAL SKILLS OUTLINE

- Phonation
- Respiration
- Resonation
- Registration
- Articulation
- Coordination

FIGURE 4-2. The Vocal Process



RESPIRATION (*breathing*): Italian vs. German methods

RESONATION

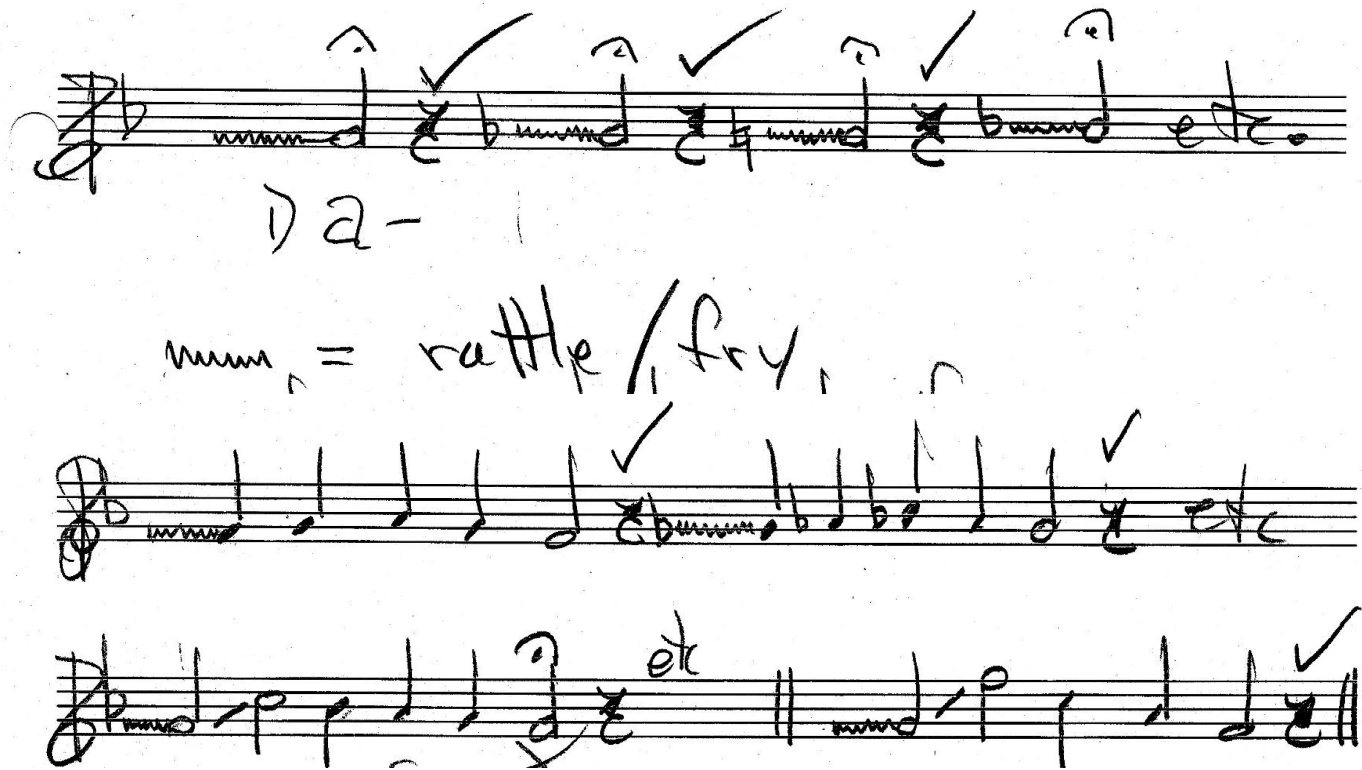
- “Placement”—to use or not to use?
 - Forward/high/back/low
 - Ideas vs. behaviors—what are these instructions?
- An alternative definition of “good” placement or resonance: **The absence of counterproductive tension from any part of the vocal tract will cause desired resonance.**

FINAL THOUGHTS

- To model or not to model, that is the question ...
 - Model vs. mimic
- “Do it wrong/do it right”
- The role of exaggeration
- Description vs. instruction

EXERCISES

Phonation



Onset



Laryngeal Position



Jaw Tension

mp

blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah
gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah

etc.

blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah
gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah gah

Exercise 3

mp

nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah
vah vah vah vah vah vah vah vah vah vah vah vah vah vah

etc.

nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah
vah vah vah vah vah vah vah vah vah vah vah vah vah vah

Tongue Tension

Palatal Lift

ii. The high placement of brighter vowel formants will be transferred to darker vowel formants:

bien — bien — be — a
[e] — [a]
main — mon — mu — [a]
[e] — [o]



Space:
Vaulted Soft Palate
"Yawn Space"
Relaxed larynx
"Open throat"



Place: (Figurative)
Ring/Ring
Clear
High and Forward
Brilliant
Focused
Round and Warm

Breath:
Down and out
360 Degree Expansion
Buoyant
Boyle's Law
Silent but Active

Registration

Moderato ♩ = 108

Intro. Opt.

Piano

Nee____ noh____ nee____

Rea Rea Rea * Rea *

5 Nee____ noh____ nee____ Nee____ noh____

Rea Rea Rea * Rea * Rea Rea

8 nee____ Nee____ noh____ nee____

Rea * Rea * Rea Rea Rea * Rea *

Coordination