

## **Being AUTHENTIC and making the song YOUR OWN**

### Pronunciation and Expression for Jazz Style (Guidelines)

#### 1. Contractions even if the word is spelled correctly.

- Takin', goin', doin', makin', sayin', prayin', lyin', sighin', tryin', lovin', dying', etc
- Gotta, shoulda, woulda, coulda, mighta, etc.
- Tell ya, ask ya, want cha, love ya, do ya, will ya, can ya, make ya, take ya,

Would you = Wouldja. Could you = couldja. Won't you = woncha. Can't you = cancha, Got you = Gotcha (but not in "I've Got You Under My Skin") What you = s whatcha. etc.

#### Diphthongs = two vowels back to back

Note: Brackets [ ] are approximate International Phonetic Alphabet symbols.

- [ai] "ah" Words: my, by, sigh, die.  
Sustain the first sound "ah" and shorten the final "ee" [i] sound to [I] as in "it".
- [ei] "ey" Words: way, hey, gray, take.  
Sustain the first sound "eh" and shorten the final ee [i] sound to [I] as in "it".
- [>i] "oy" Words: boy, soil, ploy, toy. [>] as in "awe" and [i] ee" as in "see".  
Sustain the first sound "aw" and shorten the final ee sound [i] to [I] as in "it".
- [au] "ow" Words: now, brown, loud, sound, cloud. [a] as in "at" and [u] oo as in "soon". Sustain the first sound "a" and shorten the final oo sound to [^] as in "could".
- [>u] "oh" Words: show, low, so, doe, crow. [>] as in "awe" and [u] oo as in "soon".  
Sustain the first sound "awe" and shorten the final oo sound to [^] as in "could".

#### 2. Different vibrato types

- Straight tone (no vibrato)
- Delayed Vibrato - straight tone followed by vibrato.
- Shimmery very fast vibrato especially for scatting.
- Throat vibrato- slower speed especially for ballads.
- Diaphragmatic vibrato on sustained notes - slower about 6-8 pulses per second.

#### 3. Melody Embellishments

After the melody is clearly stated, embellishments are expected to be added to the original melody by adding the following: grace notes (one step up or down from the written note).

Melisma = a groups of notes, also known as "runs".

Shorter groups of notes, known as "licks" often adding a blue note from the blues scale.

#### 4. Rhythmic Embellishments

Coming in before or after the down beat, changing the rhythms and syncopating the rhythms, which is accenting the up beat also known as the weak beat. For example, in 4/4 time the counts 2 & 4 are the weak beats. In two note 8th note group, the second 8th note is the weak beat. The weak beats are accented for syncopation.

#### 5. Expressions created in the configuration of the vocal tract

- Throat cry - for serious, passionate emotions.
- Throat laugh and throat giggle - for happy emotions.
- Sexy throat - for intimate situations.
- Other emotions: angry, mocking, sad, disappointed, teasing etc.

## 6. Sounds

Breathy - use of excess air in the tone for emotional effects such as sexy, vulnerable, secretive, etc. Be careful; this can cause hoarseness when singing high and loud.

Growl and “creaky door” - “vocal fold fry” used for emotional expression.

Back “L” - tongue depressed in the back under the soft palate used for gutsy, bluesy effect.

## 7. Consonants

Use vibrato while holding M and N.

Hold back the vowel of the next syllable on the following consonants.

G - Gorgeous

H - Hheaven or hhell.

L - Llove Mmme or lleave Mmme or llet Mmme Be llonely.

M - Mmeeeeen to mmee.

N - Nnobody does it better.

P- Think “B” into mic to avoid airy “puh” sound

S - Sssssommmmday he’ll commme alonnnnnng.

Z- Zzinng! went the Sstrings of mmy heart!

W = oo. Where or when. Oowhere or Oowhen.

Oowild is the oowind. The ooworld oowill allllooways oowellcome llovers.

Sing Buhllow, Cuhllow, Fuhlly, Guhlory,  
Suhlleeepinnn etc.

Bl - Blowin in the wind

Cl - Close to you

Fl - Fly me to the moon

Gl - Glory, glory hallelujah

Sl - Sleepin’ bee

Bureakin’, Duhream, Cuhrush, Fuhrrenship,  
Gurreat, Puhrrayer, Tuhrrue Rright, Rrong,  
Vvery etc.

Br - Breakin’ up is hard to do

Dr - Dream a little dream of me.

Cr - I’ve got a crush on you

Fr - Friendship

Gr - It’s gonna be a great day

Pr - Say a little prayer for me

Tr - Always true to you darling

R - Right or wrong

V - It’s very clear

## 8. Colors - Aim your tone into these areas

Note: colors can be done in any register, head, chest and mix.

- Chest lean - Not to be confused with chest “register”
- Mouth - Against the teeth
- Nasal - into the nasal area
- Mask - into the nasal area plus across cheek bone to cheek bone
- Head - Not to be confused with head “register” (should be very soft only)

## 9. Dynamics

Crescendo - < gradually increase volume starting soft to loud

Decrescendo - > gradually decrease volume starting loud to soft

Remember these are only guidelines. It’s best to use these when studying a new piece and by all means, listen to several elite recording artists sing your song. Learn from the best. That’s what they did. Phrase by phrase is the best way to get in your voice various styles. Copy, copy and copy from the best. Next thing you know you’ve got your own style! Let it SHINE!