

Better Performance through Improvisation

with Anne Fromm

Working with improvisation exercises from the theater helps us learn to let go and gain greater freedom in our interpretation.

The most important thing when performing a song is to put yourself at the service of the text. You're no longer listening to yourself sing, but listening to yourself tell a story.

Before you sing, ask yourself these questions:

- what is the emotional state of my 'character' at the start of the song?
- what has he been through just before this moment?
- where is he?
- who is he talking to?
- is he talking to one person (to be placed fictitiously in front of you) or to several people (look at the people in the audience)?

The story begins the moment the music starts. This is the moment to get under the skin of your character. And stay there until the music ends.

Don't stop abruptly as soon as you've finished singing, but let the character live until the last note of the piano or orchestra.

Tell yourself that the imaginary person in front of you is also experiencing things, and that he or she may react to what you're 'telling' him or her, giving you more scope for play.

See the things you describe in your imagination. The more you see these things, the more the audience will see them too.

You'll never experience the exact same thing from one performance to the next, and that's fine.

Your character may start with a different emotional state (more angry, less sad, etc.), and this state will evolve over the course of the song.

Be real! Let yourself be surprised.

Put yourself at the service of the song, giving it your voice and your body. Let your body express the emotions in the lyrics.

This will help you stop listening to yourself sing and stop judging yourself.

Stay connected to yourself, don't try to seduce the audience, they'll come to you because they're captured by the story you're telling.

Move or walk only if your character needs to.