

Hints for Singers

A few thoughts from David Gordon

- Most singers spend far too much of their practice time merely singing through their material from beginning to end.
- The voice is a product of the imagination. The body is the vehicle. The mind is the controlling element. The emotions are the fuel.
- It is never necessary to move externally when changing from one tone or pitch to another. When singing, we move because we can, but not because we have to.
- Breathing and singing is one thing, not two. The breath is part of the musical phrase.
- The air entering the lungs does not cause the body to expand. The air enters the lungs *because* the body is expanding. Stay expanded, all the time. It makes everything easier.
- Do not become rigid. But never relax.
- The consonants should connect the vowels, not interrupt them.
- Better 10 wrong postures than one correct posture you are frozen into.
- It doesn't have to be pretty. It just has to be real. Then it will be beautiful.
- Practice doesn't make "perfect." Practice makes automatic.
- Do not listen to yourself sing. *Feel* yourself sing. Don't be distracted by what your ears tell you. We are guided toward healthy singing by focusing on the tactile sensations.
- Most faulty habits of the throat are the result of compensating for faulty breathing habits. Without optimal posture and breathing, good singing is not possible.
- Nobody *ever* gets *everything* right. Just get used to it. When we finally stop trying to be perfect, then we can start trying to be excellent. Remember, if failure is not an option, then neither is success.
- When in doubt, breathe!
- The best breath for singing is silent and invisible. Sip the air, keep your throat open. The *silent* breath is the best breath.
- Don't change your posture of singing in order to breathe. Don't change your posture of breathing in order to sing.
- When the melody goes upward, think downward. As the notes descend, lift them up.
- Don't try to thrust your voice out into the room. Let the music come to you.
- When you sing long phrases, pretend you are inhaling and expanding.
- When nerves or stage fright bother you, always return your awareness to the breath and to your body.

Copyright © 2009 David Gordon. All Rights Reserved.

David Gordon • PO Box 4843 Carmel CA 93921 • phone 831/238.2934 • email dgordon@spiritsound.com

Please visit David's website for information, articles, resources, and more www.spiritsound.com
