

Resonance and Vowels for Singing

Resonance

- We are striving for a full, warm, resonant sound with the ability to easily move through the range.
- Resonance is air vibrating within cavities to enhance the timbre of the fundamental pitch made at the larynx

Articulating Vowels

- Vowels are needed to sustain sound, they are unrestricted
- Vowels should be executed quickly and precisely to maintain fairly consistent space for flow of air and even tone
- [i e a o u]

Articulation

- Words are meant to be heard and understood.
- It is vital for singers that text is clear, efficiently produced, and expressive.

Flexible Articulators Include:

Soft Palate

- Flexibility is the key
- Think yawn or sigh space
- Never tight or set, space has ability to change for pitches

Jaw

- Hangs from skull using ligaments and muscles
- Has a number of movements (up and down, side to side, forward and back)
- Free of tension

Tongue

- Does most of the work to produce consonants and vowels
- Default position is relaxed and soft
- Tongue muscles are very active, but separate from other articulators!
- Tension in the tongue can result in a fuller sound to the singer, but it is not clear to the audience and not sustainable long-term

Lips

- Lips, along with tongue are responsible for most of the consonants we use
- Must be free and flexible