

Open Presentation of the workshop “Musicality of Movement” for Singers by Charlotte Riedijk

I attended the final class/presentation of the course about MoM Charlotte did with a group of singers for her research. I could appreciate some of the elements I worked on with her in our private lesson. For example, it was interesting to see the physical exercises from outside, observing how the movements are carried by the breathing, both elements in “one”.

The most striking thing for me was the improvisation exercise they did. They had only one guideline for the exercise: take a melody they wanted, and while feeling the space (moving, lying down, running...) sing it when feeling the impulse. It was very enlightening to see how the movement gave meaning to the chosen musical phrase, changing completely the character in each intervention. For example, it doesn't express the same to go running and stop suddenly to sing the phrase, or instead be lying on your back to sing it, and a long etcetera.

Also the position of each singer in the space was full of meaning: being in a corner, in the center, in the front; and at the same time, the relationship between the different singers: facing each other or with their backs to each other, in groups or spread in the space.

This whole exercise emphasized to me how movement enhances performative skills. Choosing each singer their own little musical phrase, without an agreed concept, they finally came up with a common "performance" full of meaning.

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