

The Voice for Composers

A small guide by Georgi Sztojanov

Vocal vs Instrumental - limitations

- Breathing (phrasing)
- Range
- Intonation (reference points)
- Sustaining (tessitura)

Vocal vs Instrumental – ‘privileges’ (Sanda)

- Text
- Unique color
- Personal
- Subtext
- Character
- Theatre element
- SUBCONSCIOUS ELEMENT (animalistic communication)

The voice – as an instrument

- Breath
- Inner hearing (Imagination)
- Phrase in advance
- Executing plan – Singing
- Vocal chords (in Larynx)
- Resonators
- Articulation (tongue, teeth, pallets in Pharynx)
- INTENTION!!!

Terminus technicus

- Support
- Range
- Tessitura
- Passaggio
- Vowels, jaw, tongue, lips
- Larynx position
- 'Mask' - projection
- Vibrato

Registers (gears)

- Chest
 - Head
 - Falsetto
 - Mixed (Voix mixte)
-
- Undertones (Overtones)
 - Whistle range
-
- Male/female register changes, Passagi

Passagio

- Change between registers
- Limited: dynamics, endurance, text (clear vowels)
- Tension (high position, new string)
- Connecting is sensitive (smooth change of gears)
- Separating (skipping)

Voice types

- Range, tessitura, passaggi
 - Color
 - Flexibility
 - Repertoire
-
- Style, genre
 - Language
 - 'Dialect'

Voice types

- Sopranos: soubrette, lyric, spinto, dramatic, jugendliche dramatische soprano, coloratura, Falcon (french)
- Mezzo-soprano: lyric, coloratura, dramatic
- Contralto: coloratura, lyric, dramatic
- Counter-tenor: sopranist, counter-tenor, haute-contre
- Tenor: leggero (character), lyric, spinto, dramatic, heldentenor, baritenor
- Baritone: Baryton-martin, lyir, bel canto, kavalier, helden, Verdi, dramatic, bariton noble, bass-baritone
- Bass: Profondo, bel canto, dramatic, bass-baritone

Mapping a voice

- Range
- Favorite octave
- Favorite fifth
- Passaggi
- Colors
- Coloraturas
- Genres, extended techniques
- Languages

Mapping a voice – Georgi (T, Ct, Bulgarian)

- Range: Bb2-bb4, Bb3-G5, A3-A4
- Favorite octave: G3-G4, E4-E5
- Favorite fifth: Bb3-F4, A5-E5
- Passaggi: 1.C#4 (d-f) 2.G4 , 1.C4 2. E5
- Colors: Darker chest, mixed voice, pure head, chesty head, falsetto
- Coloraturas: in chest not that fast, in Ct yes
- Genres, extended techniques: Bulgarian, multiphonics in mix
- Languages: Bg, Hu, En, Nl, 3basics (It, De, Fr)

Voice maps

Name	Voice type	Range		Fav 8ve		Fav 5th		Pass1	Pass2	Comment
Dalma	High Lyric Soprano	a,	d'''	g'	g''	bb'	f''			
Sanda	Soprano	f,	h''	e'	e''	a'	e''			
Enikő	Lyric Mezzosoprano	<i>bb</i> (c)	<i>f#''</i> (g'')	e'	e''	a'	e''	e	F#	
Georgi	High Countertenor (sopranist)	Bb (c)	a' (bb')	g'	g''	bb'	f''	d		
	Lyric Tenor	Bb (c)	a' (bb')	g'	g''	bb'	f''			
Hessel	Baritone	G	g	D	d	G	d	e	eb	

Singing - Sports

- Physical
 - Muscle training
 - Habits (languages)
 - Specialist & Multi talent
 - Triathlon – Heavy weight lifting
-
- Everyone can sing <> ‘sing your piece yourself’

Singing 'modern' - DON'T SING!

- No vibrato
- No resonance
- No projection
- No diction
- No color
- No intention
- Yes to ... ?
- Voice like instrument – body that makes sound

Singing – Communicating

- Text, poetry
- Subtext, message
- Acting
- Music theater, Gesamtkunstwerk
- Opera
- Operatic world, money, divas
- Machinery, Institute <> Artistic ideas
- Strong traditions
- Human (Mirror, Self – awareness, Reflecting on others, Social!)

Singing <>Thinking

- 'Observe your breathing'
- Lifting (closing larynx)
- ANALOGY: Bunji jumping (preparation)
- During singing not busy with thinking
- **INTENTION**

Stupid body, genius body

- **Simple instructions, complex processes**
- Intention
- Example: 'lugubre'
- "The Method" – bullets (strategies>actions)

NOTATION – instruction or result?

- Dynamics (relative or absolute)
- Expression marks (reason or consequence)

NOTATION - Thinking in parameters

- Exciting rhythms, changing meter, fast tempo
- Reference notes for intonation
- Quartertones
- Harmonic thinking (the acoustic rules)
- Special effects, extended techniques
- Difficult text – no text
- No color / text / character – NO INTENTION

NOTATION - Some practical thoughts

- Vocal score (piano reduction, or queue notes – only existing sounds)
- Helping notes
- Thinking in character – intention/ instruction
- Contacting singer
- Tension – natural color and dynamic (delay)
- 1 / 4 does exist! No 2/8
- Instrument like-things = instrument-like limitations (staccato<>intonation)
- Random (improvisation – personal choices)

Examples

vocal score

24

S.1 'full-body sound' *mp*
ou

S.2 *p* *mf*
ou *p* *f*
ou

M-S. *espress.*
mf 'full-body sound'
ah

T. *espress.*
mf 'full-body sound'
ou

Bar. ah

28 7" ♩=90 V

S.1 (2") *mp* hum

S.2 (2") *mp* hum

M-S. (2") *mp* hum

T. (3") *mp*
ou

Bar. (2") *mp* hum

The musical score is written for five parts: Soprano 1 (S.1), Soprano 2 (S.2), Mezzo-Soprano (M-S.), Tenor (T.), and Baritone (Bar.). The time signature is 4/4, and the tempo is marked as ♩=90. A rehearsal mark of 7" is placed above the first measure. The key signature has one flat. The score begins with a measure containing a whole rest for all parts. The vocal parts then enter with a half note. S.1, S.2, and Bar. are marked with (2") *mp* hum. M-S. is marked with (2") *mp* hum. T. is marked with (3") *mp* and has the lyrics 'ou'. The piano accompaniment (Bar.) is marked with (2") *mp* hum. The score ends with a repeat sign.

S. *p*

S. *mp* vibrato, crying
die

M-S. *mf* vibrato, crying *pp*
die

10

83

S. 1

S. 2

M-S.

T.

Bar.

8

4

S. 1

S. 2

M-S.

T.

Bar.

p [a]

4

24 **A**

S. 1

S. 2

M-S.

T.

Bar.

f

f

f

f

f

6

40

B

S. 1

ff

S. 2

ff

M-S.

ff

T.

ff

Bar.

ff

The musical score consists of five staves, each representing a different instrument or voice part. The staves are labeled S. 1, S. 2, M-S., T., and Bar. The music is written in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first measure of the score is marked with the number 40. The music is marked 'ff' (fortissimo) and includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. A box labeled 'B' is placed above the first staff at measure 40. The score is divided into four measures, with the first measure starting at measure 40. The first staff (S. 1) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second staff (S. 2) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The third staff (M-S.) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The fourth staff (T.) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The fifth staff (Bar.) has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The music is marked 'ff' (fortissimo) and includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. A box labeled 'B' is placed above the first staff at measure 40. The score is divided into four measures, with the first measure starting at measure 40.

Five Broken Pieces Prelude

For Paul Zaba

Static, swelling ♩=52 (Duration: ca 26 seconds)

without amplification, breathe as unobtrusively as possible

poco vib.

pppp

Soprano Solo I

The musical score for Soprano Solo I is written on a single staff in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody consists of a series of half notes, each tied to the next, creating a continuous, swelling line. The notes are: F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, and F#4. The final measure is marked with a 2/4 time signature. Below the staff, the word 'Hmmm' is written, indicating a vocalization or breath sound.

Very jazzy!

Mal - ko-vich Mal - ko - vich

Mal - ko-vich Mal - ko-vich

Very jazzy!

Mal - ko-vich Mal - ko-vich

Mal - ko-vich Mal - ko - vich

Very jazzy!

$$mf$$

26

C

open
mouth
closed

1. S.

open
mouth
closed

2. S.

5

5

3
4

3
4

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for two voices, labeled '1. S.' and '2. S.'. Above the staves are labels for 'open' and 'closed' mouth positions. The first voice staff (1. S.) begins with a half rest, then a quarter note G4 (p), an eighth rest, an eighth note A4 (x), a quarter note B4 (x), and a half rest. The second voice staff (2. S.) begins with a half rest, then a quarter note G4 (mf), an eighth rest, an eighth note A4 (x), a quarter note B4 (f), and a half rest. The third measure shows both voices holding a whole note G4, marked with a '5' above the staff. The first voice staff has a '3' and '4' at the end of the measure, and the second voice staff has a '3' and '4' at the end of the measure. The score is labeled '26' and 'C' at the top.

39

1 *f* (frightened) *p* (sad) *f* (angry) *p* (sad)

meow meow meow meow meow

(repeat 'meow' as fast as possible, not precise words)

2 *mf* (curious) *mp* (sad) *f* (angry) *mp* (sad)

meow meow meow meow meow

(repeat 'meow' as fast as possible, not precise words)

3 *p* (sad) *f* (curious) *f* (angry) *mf* (angry)

meow meow meow! meow!

4 *mp* (bored) *f* *mf* *ff*

meow meow! meow!

5 *mp* *f* *mf* *p*

meow meow! meow!

6 *p* *sfz* *mp* *tri.* *flute* *mf* *p*

p *f*

(angry)

♩=120 Wall of sound

The musical score is written for two voices, likely soprano and alto, in a key with one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as 120 beats per minute. The score consists of four staves. The first two staves are instrumental, with dynamics *mp*, *pp*, *p*, and *mf*. The third and fourth staves contain the vocal melody with lyrics. The lyrics are: "They'll meet. Di - vide Light". The vocal parts feature various dynamics including *mp*, *p*, and *mf*, with crescendo and decrescendo markings. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

mp *pp* *p* *mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

They'll meet. Di - vide Light

They'll meet. Di - vide Light

Malkovich

Ali Can Puskulcu

2016-17

♩ = 63-66

Soprano

f 3 3 *ff* 3 3

Mal - kovich Mal - ko vich Mal Mal - ko vich Mal - ko vich Mal - ko vich Mal - ko vich

Mezzo-Soprano

f 3 3 *ff* 3 3

Mal - ko vich Mal - ko vich Mal vich Mal - ko vich Mal - ko vich Mal - ko vich

Piano Reduction

p 5 *mf* 5 *mp* 5 *f*

15^{ma} 15^{ma}

The musical score is written for Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, and Piano Reduction. The time signature is 3/4. The Soprano part features lyrics: "Mal - kovich Mal - ko vich Mal" and "Mal - ko vich Mal - ko vich Mal - ko vich Mal - ko vich". The Mezzo-Soprano part features lyrics: "Mal - ko vich Mal - ko vich Mal" and "vich Mal - ko vich Mal - ko vich Mal - ko vich". The Piano Reduction part includes dynamic markings: *p*, *mf*, *mp*, and *f*. It also includes fingering numbers (3, 5) and a 15^{ma} (15th measure) marking. The score is in 3/4 time, with a tempo of 63-66 beats per minute.

74 **H**

2 *mf* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

Five Five Five Five Five Five

2 *mf* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

Five Five Five Five Five Five

2

2 *mf* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

Five Five Five Five Five Five

2 *mf* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

Five Five Five Five Five Five

81

5

Vocals

8
Vocals

82

mf *p* *pp*

La - hore La - hore La - hore

8

86

I

f

London

FEEDBACK TIME!

FEEDBACK TIME!

- Please, roast each other! Thank you!

SINGING TOGETHER

- Shall we try? 😊