

Dynamics

More than just loud and soft, dynamics includes the volume, but also all the other possible contrasts in the song - the vocal tone, the part of the register that is being used, the amount of cord effort and the emotional mood.

As you refine your vocal coordination, you'll be able to modulate the dynamic on any type of sound or syllable, in any part of your range.

We all naturally have softer or stronger sounds, and we want to condition both ends of that spectrum in order to be able to have a good dynamic range in our interpretations. Often, it so happens that we find it easier to access higher volume in the lower part of our register than the higher part.

To experience the softer end of your dynamic range take two notes close together and sing them softly cycling through these sounds:

Bop
Mum
Nuh
Go
We
Soft ay
Light Nay

To experience the louder end of your dynamic range, say 'hey' loudly. Don't try to 'sound nice'. Go for a nasal, nay or ng slide.

Now take the verse part of your song and apply the following dynamic contrasts:

Increase or decrease within same word
Increase or decrease within same phrase
Choose specific words to emphasize within a phrase - repeated twice
increase or decrease within same section
Go from softer to louder sections
Go from louder to softer sections
Sing louder section, then softer section
Separate sections (louder or softer)

- Sing 1-2 lines with the same dynamic
- Sing 1-2 lines twice, increasing volume evenly on second time
- Sing 1-2 lines three times, increasing volume evenly every time
- Sing 1-2 lines, increasing during the line.
- Sing 1-2 lines, decreasing the volume.
- Start with a light sound, increase, then decrease the volume.

Decide how you would like to manage the dynamic change through your interpretation of your chosen song. Actually write down what you plan to do.