

Working On Your Song - Recap!

1. **Get the music** in your head, and 'learn the steps' by slow repetition of small chunks. Make sure it's the right key - try a few different keys out to be sure.

Where are the dynamic changes? Sketch below:

Take one line, or maximum two, if the lines are short:

1. Hum it three times at least on ng sound focusing on the movement up or down, stepwise or intervallic, of the notes.
2. Hum it three times at least focusing on rhythm of the section you're on, using a ng sound.
3. Sing the section on 'buh' and 'vuh'.
4. Sing it three times using the lyrics, checking to see which type of vowel sound lands on which note and seeing if you need to make any adjustments.
5. Isolate any part that has any patterns or licks that either exist already in the melody or that you'd like to put in. Do at least 20 reps of these on an Ng sound, ideally moving the pattern up and down a guitar or mini keyboard on your device, or using anytune.
6. Repeat steps 1-3 for the next sections.
7. Either follow the dynamic of the original reference recording or decide on your own dynamic trajectory. 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.

8. Think about the style - tone and dynamics. A recap of how to train your ability to be dynamic is here:

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

Sing each section to experiment with at least three different dynamic settings - so you can sing softly, medium and with more power. Do each 'setting' twice.

- Start with a light sound, increase, then decrease the volume.
- Sing each section with the intention to connect with a different emotion.

9. Think about style - any ornaments or embellishments you may want to add. Perhaps you have some in your repertoire you can use or adapt.

10. Identify any problems and see if you can define what the root of the problem is (eg - not secure on pitch/running out of air/vowel sound is awkward to sing and may need modification)

11. Record and review and refine:

When you practice record yourself, listen through the following filters to review and troubleshoot:

- Am I releasing all the air? Are there some places where I'm releasing and others that sound tight or squeezed?

- Am I singing in phrases with space in between or am I running all the notes into one another?
- What vowel sounds are on the high notes? Have I trained those separately to make sure I'm narrowing the vowel sound?
- How many repetitions have I given each pair of lines?
- Have I worked on tricky transitions using lip rolls and slowed them down?
- Have I taken out any fills, slowed them down and used them as an exercise?
- Have I planned out where I'd like dynamic to be? What is or are the moments of highest intensity, and what musical resources would I like to draw on to bring these out? (Power; quietness; vocal tone change, etc).

AVOID listening for whether you think it is 'good' or not. I appreciate we all notice inaccuracies with pitch strongly, but to see improvement and to know where to direct your attention, the questions you ask have to be at a more detailed level to be useful.