

TEACHING YOUNG SINGERS 8-18
WITH FOCUS ON CHANGING VOICE
LECTURE PRESENTED TO HOUSTON NATS
NOVEMBER 20, 2004
BY KATHLEEN MARTIN
UPDATED AND PRESENTED TO SAN DIEGO NATS
OCTOBER 22, 2011

1. Girls & Boys - 8 - 11
2. Girls - 12 - 14
3. Boys - Unchanged 12 - 15
4. Boys - Changing 12 - 15
5. Young Ladies 15 - 18
6. Young Men - Changed 16 - 18

A Partial Listing of Song Collections:

Classical -

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| 2 - 6 | Adventures in Singing - <i>A text book on singing, some songs in two keys</i> | McGraw-Hill |
| 2 | Album of 25 Favorite Songs for Girls | G. Schirmer |
| 2 - 6 | American Folksongs - H,L, <i>Moderate difficulty</i> | Hal Leonard |
| 5, 6 | Anthology of French Song H, L | G. Schirmer/HL |
| 5, 6 | Anthology of Italian Song of the 17 th & 18 th Centuries Book 1, 2 | G. Schirmer |
| 5, 6 | Anthology of Spanish Song H, L | Hal Leonard |
| 5, 6 | Arias for S, M, T, Bar, Bss, & Coloratura Sop | G. Schirmer |
| 4, 6 | Arnold Book of Old Songs, arr. Quilter, <i>Moderate range</i> | Boosey & Hawkes |
| 2 - 4 | Art of Song Vol. 1, 2 H,L- <i>English Royal School of Music Levels 1-5</i> | Peters |
| 5, 6 | Art of Song Vol. 3,4,5 H,M,L - <i>English Royal School of Music Levels 6-8</i> | Peters |
| 5, 6 | Art Song Anthology, The - H, L | Hal Leonard |
| 2 - 6 | Art Songs for School and Studio Vol. 1,2 Med. High - <i>Moderate difficulty</i> | Ditson |
| 5, 6 | Art Songs in English H, L | Boosey & Hawkes |
| 5, 6 | Barber - Collected Songs H, L <i>Too difficult for beginners of this age</i> | G. Schirmer/HL |
| 2 - 6 | Basics of Singing - <i>A text book on singing, some songs in two keys</i> | Schirmer Books |
| 2 - 4 | Bergerettes, 20 Romances and Songs of the 18 th Century, <i>not difficult</i> | G. Schirmer/HL |
| 2 - 4 | Boosey & Hawkes 20 th Century Easy Song Collection | Boosey & Hawkes |
| 5, 6 | Brahms - 75 songs H, L <i>Good translations</i> | Hal Leonard |
| 4, 6 | Butterworth - A Shropshire Land and other songs | Stainer & Bell |
| 2 - 4 | CD Sheetmusic - S/M/T/B Arias, German Lieder, French Art Song - <i>diff keys</i> | CDsheetmusic |
| 5, 6 | Contemporary American Art Songs - Taylor | Ditson |
| 5, 6 | Contemporary American Songs - Taylor H, L | Frangipani |
| 5, 6 | Contemporary Art Songs | G. Schirmer/ HL |
| 2 | Daffodils, violets, and snowflakes H,L - English only | Hal Leonard |
| 5, 6 | Debussy, Songs of Vol. 1 High, 2 Med <i>Good translations</i> | Hal Leonard |
| 1 - 4 | Easy songs for beginning singers, Parts 1 & 2 S,M/A,T,Bar - English only | G. Schirmer/HL |
| 2+ - 6 | English Songs Renaissance to Baroque H, L | Hal Leonard |
| 2 - 6 | Expressive Singing Song Anthology H,M | WCBrown |
| 5, 6 | Faure - 50 Songs H, ML <i>Good translations</i> | Hal Leonard |
| 2 - 6 | Faure, Songs by Any key | Schubertline |
| 5, 6 | Favorite French Art Songs H, L <i>Good translations IPA</i> | Hal Leonard |
| 5 | Finding Middle Ground - <i>Music for Young Sop. and Mz.</i> | GIA |
| 6 | Finding Middle Ground - <i>Music for Young Ten., Bar./Bass</i> | GIA |
| 2+, 5 | First Book of Sop, Mezzo solos - <i>Moderate difficulty</i> | G. Schirmer/HL |
| 2+, 5 | First Book of Sop, Mezzo solos Part 2 , 3 | G. Schirmer/HL |
| 5 | Second Book of Sop, Mezzo solos - <i>More advanced than previous vol</i> | G. Schirmer/HL |
| 5 | Second Book of Sop, Mezzo solos Part 2 | G. Schirmer/HL |
| 6 | First Book of Ten, Bar/Bass solos - <i>Moderate difficulty</i> | G. Schirmer/HL |
| 6 | First Book of Ten, Bar/Bass solos Part 2 , 3 | G. Schirmer/HL |
| 6 | Second Book of Ten, Bar/Bass solos - <i>More advanced than previous vol</i> | G. Schirmer/HL |
| 6 | Second Book of Ten, Bar/Bass solos Part 2 | G. Schirmer/HL |
| 2 - 6 | Folk Songs for Solo Singers Vol. 1, 2 MH, ML - <i>Moderate difficulty</i> | Alfred |
| 5, 6 | French Song Anthology H, L | Hal Leonard |
| 5 | Gitanjali - Carpenter - <i>Some songs only for the most advanced</i> | G. Schirmer |
| 2, 6 | Grandi Operisti per Giovani Cantanti - S, M, T, Bar, Bss | Ricordi |

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| 5, 6 | Handel 45 Arias Vol 1,2,3 H, L | International |
| 4, 6 | Heroes and Vagabonds – <i>Songs for the male changing voice</i> | BriLee |
| 5, 6 | Italian Arias of the Baroque and Classical Eras - H,M,L | Alfred |
| 5, 6 | Italian Art Songs of the Romantic Era - MH, ML | Alfred |
| 5, 6 | Italian Songs of the 17 th & 18 th Centuries Vol 1,2 H,L | International |
| 2, 5 | Let Nature Sing – <i>Songs for the developing treble voice</i> | BriLee |
| 5, 6 | Lieder Anthology, The H, L | Hal Leonard |
| 5, 6 | Library of Songs & Arias | AMSCO |
| 2+, 5 | Lovers, Lasses and Spring -Eng. only <i>Songs for beginning coloratura soprano</i> | Hal Leonard |
| 5, 6 | Mozart Arias for S, M, T, B/B | Hal Leonard |
| 5 | Mozart - arias, lieder and duets for soprano <i>Any key</i> | Schubertline |
| 2+ - 6 | Mozart - 12 Songs <i>Too advanced for beginners</i> | Alfred |
| 2 - 6 | Music Songbook Intro, Levels 1-6 - <i>Royal Canadian Conservatory of Music</i> | Frederick Harris |
| 2, 5 | My Heart Sings – <i>Songs for the developing treble voice</i> | BriLee |
| 3, 4, 6 | Old American Songs - Aaron Copeland Vol. 1,2 | Boosey & Hawkes |
| 2 - 6 | Pathways of Song I, II, III, IV H,L - <i>Moderate difficulty</i> | Warner Bros. |
| 5, 6 | Purcell - 40 Songs Vol. 1-4 H, L | International |
| 5, 6 | Quilter - 55 Songs H, L | Hal Leonard |
| 2 - 6 | Ready to Sing Folk Songs, <i>not for advanced singers</i> | Alfred |
| 2, 5 | Roses, Laughter & Lullabies – <i>Songs for beginning Mezzo Sop</i> | Hal Leonard |
| 6 | Schubert: Die schoene Muellerin, Winterreise <i>Multiple keys</i> | Schubertline |
| 5, 6 | Schubert 200 Songs H, L | International |
| 2-6 | Schubertline - <i>able to order in multiple keys</i> | Schubertline |
| 2 - 6 | Schumann - Song cycles and other selected lieder <i>Any key</i> | Schubertline |
| 5, 6 | Schumann - 85 Songs H, L | International |
| 5, 6 | Singer's Library of Song H, M, L | Alfred |
| 4 | Solos for the changing male voice | Shawnee Press |
| 1 | Solos for Kids | Hal Leonard |
| 4, 6 | Somervell - A Shropshire Lad | Boosey & Hawkes |
| 5, 6 | Songs by 22 Americans H, L | Schirmer/HL |
| 6 | Songs of Travel - Vaughan Williams H, L | Boosey & Hawkes |
| 6 | Songs for Beginning Bass | Scarecrow |
| 5, 6 | Standard Vocal Literature S, Mz, T, Bar, Bass | Hal Leonard |
| 5, 6 | Standard Vocal Repertoire, Book 1 & 2 H, L - | Row |
| 5, 6 | Strauss Lieder H, M, L | Peters |
| 4, 6 | Tales of Land and Sea – <i>Songs for the changing male voice</i> | BriLee |
| 4, 6 | Traveling On – <i>Songs for the changing male voice</i> | BriLee |
| 5, 6 | 20 th Century Art Songs | Schirmer/HL |
| 4, 6 | Young Ladies, Shipmates & Journeys | Hal Leonard |
| 2, 5 | Young Singer, The - Book 1 Sop, Mz/Con | Row |
| 4, 6 | Young Singer, The - Book 1 Ten, Bar/Bass | Row |
| 2 | 5 Folksongs arr. Zaninelli | Shawnee Press |
| 2 - 6 | 10 Folk Songs for Solo Voice MH, ML by Mark Hayes, <i>not for most advanced</i> | Alfred |
| 2+ - 6 | 24 Italian Songs and Arias of the 17 th & 18 th Centuries MH, ML | Schirmer |
| 2+ - 6 | 26 Italian Songs and Arias, MH, ML | Alfred |
| 1 | 36 Solos for Young Singers | Hal Leonard |
| 5 | 48 Arias for Soprano / Mezzo-soprano | Schubertline |
| 2 - 6 | 48 Italian songs and arias 17 th and 18 th centuries <i>Any key</i> | |
| 5, 6 | 50 Art songs from the modern repertoire | G. Schirmer |
| 5, 6 | 50 Best-Selling Songs and Duets <i>any key</i> | Schubertline |
| 5, 6 | 50 German Songs H, L | International |
| 5, 6 | 50 Selected Songs by Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Wolf & Strauss H, L | Schirmer |
| 2 - 4 | 55 Art Songs - <i>medium range, English only</i> | Summy-Birchard |
| 5, 6 | 56 Songs You Like to Sing | G. Schirmer |

Literature for Voice - An Index of Songs in Collections Vol. 1 & 2 by Thomas Golecke

Musical Theater -

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| 2 - 6 | Big Book of Broadway | Hal Leonard |
| 2,5 4,6 | Broadway for Teens – Young Women, Young Men | Hal Leonard |
| 5, 6 | Contemporary Singing Actor Vol. 1,2 Women, Men | Hal Leonard |
| 5, 6 | Contemporary Theater Songs S, M, Men | Hal Leonard |
| 2 - 6 | Definitive Broadway Collection | Hal Leonard |
| 1 | Illustrated Treasury of Disney Songs | Hal Leonard |
| 2-6 | First Book of Broadway Solos - S,M, T, B/B | Hal Leonard |
| 5, 6 | Gilbert & Sullivan for Singers - S,M,T,B/B | Hal Leonard |
| 2,5 4,6 | Great Songs from Musicals for Teens – Young Women, Young Men | Hal Leonard |
| 1 | Kid's Broadway Songbook | Hal Leonard |
| 1,2,3 | Kid's Musical Theater Anthology | Alfred |
| 1 | Kid's Stage and Screen | Hal Leonard |
| 2 - 6 | Musical Theater Anthology for Teens - Young Women, Young Men, Duets | Hal Leonard |
| 1 | Popular Solos for Young Singers | Hal Leonard |
| 5, 6 | Singers Musical Theater Anthology Vol. 1,2,3 S,M,T,B/B, Duets | Hal Leonard |
| 2,5 4,6 | Singers Musical Theater Anthology for Teens - S, Mz, T, B/B | Hal Leonard |
| 1 | Solos for Kids | Hal Leonard |
| 1 | Solos from Musicals for Kids | Hal Leonard |
| 2 -6 | Teen's Musical Theater Anthology – Female, Male | Alfred |
| 2 - 6 | Teen's Musical Theater Collection - Young Women, Young Men | Hal Leonard |
| 2,5 4,6 | Tunes for Teens from Musicals – Young Women, Young Men | Hal Leonard |
| 2 - 6 | 16-bar Theater Audition, The S,M,T,B | Hal Leonard |

LECTURE TOPICS

- **At what age should we begin lessons?**
 - a. I begin at about 7-8yrs. but you can begin at any age.
 - b. Reading ability
 - c. Concentration
- **Classical vs Musical Theater and Popular at early ages.**
 - a. Popular ie. Disney, animated, easy MT
 - b. Easy songs for S,M,T,B; Solos for Kids, 36 solos for Young Singers
- **At what age should we begin foreign language and which one/s?**
 - a. As soon as possible if the child shows no resistance.
 - b. Begin with Dites-moi or Nel cor piu non mi sento, International Folk Songs.
 - c. Later Bergerettes, Eng. Royal School of Music or Royal Canadian School
- **Advanced repertoire at early ages: what and how much?**
 - a. Depends on aptitude and desire on child's part.
 - b. Hold off arias and/or redirect when possible.
 - c. If child persists you may find abbreviated version or some simple arias. "Grandi Operisti per Giovanni Cantanti"
 - a. possibilities as well as some early Mozart.
- **Theory, sight singing, rhythm**
 - a. Good to have a structured program ie. MTAC but if none available, do it yourself.
 - b. So important esp. for potential music majors.
 - c. Stress piano lessons when possible (class piano), universities looking for well-rounded students.
- **Recitals, competitions, evaluation programs.**
 - a. Begin with recitals and evaluation programs and move to competitions as soon as they will.
 - b. Emphasize doing it for the experience.
 - c. The experience makes them more confident and more accustomed to auditions.
- **Should we teach through the young male voice change?**
 - a. Yes. The guys will be singing during this time so it's better to guide them.
 - b. The transition is much smoother with less popping; student retains high range with less problems with continued training.
- **What are the typical ages?**
 - a. Boys 12 - 15
 - b. Girls 11 - 14
- **What changes take place and what are the first signs?**
 - a. Hands, feet, growth spurt.
 - b. Boys voices gain progressively more notes in lower register while retaining high.
- **What are the typical problems?**
 - a. High becomes progressively more difficult and loses clarity.
 - b. Often a hole appears between approx. F above middle C and C above middle C. (This is what will soon be the head or head mix of the changed voice and takes a few years to come in with any strength and should not be forced.)
 - c. An excess of air in the tone is inherent in many young voices because all their laryngeal muscles do not develop at the same rate. The muscles inside the larynx suddenly and dramatically outgrow those outside the larynx.
- **Progression through the mid to late teens.**
 - a. Some boys voices march down the scale.
 - b. Others drop low and then come back up.
 - c. Once the voice settles, it normally has a range of about an octave and slowly adds notes above and below.
Often takes a number of years before the head mix comes in with any strength.
 - d. Per Richard Alderson "Complete Handbook of Voice training" there is evidence showing that the younger a boy is when his voice changes, the lower and heavier the voice will be. Some of these low voices tend to rise (in tessitura) as they mature.
May be several years before they return.
 - e. Planning ahead for recitals or competitions is very challenging.
 - f. It is necessary to find repertoire of limited range in multiple keys as the voice often changes on a monthly basis.
 - g. Schubertline, Sibelius or other notation software.
- **How do girls differ? Compare ranges.**
 - a. Girls stay in the same octave but typically lose clarity while gaining depth.
 - b. Potential mezzos may have been high sopranos in unchanged voice. These voices often change quite radically, losing top and gaining much warmth in lower and middle voice. There seems to be no correlation between range in girls unchanged voice with range in changed voice according to Alderson.
 - c. Some voices become very low and husky and others, seem to change very little in range, gaining mainly in quality and depth.
 - d. Again it is often necessary to choose songs that have many keys available or take time to transpose or have a good software notation program.
- **Are we assigning too much material of a difficult nature too soon?**

With the competitive nature of our society it is difficult to not be pulled into assigning difficult and challenging material to our most gifted and ambitious students.