

HAPPY EARS--SINGING IN TUNE

I. Training the individual to sing in tune.

A. Start with the basics

1. Freely produced tone
2. Well-supported tone
3. Good head tone
4. Clean and accurate intervals

B. “Defy Gravity”

1. Buoyant alignment.
2. Lift cheek bones.
3. Lift soft palate.
4. Lift eyebrows (slightly).
5. Lift your spirits.

C. Sing on the top side of the pitch.

1. Be intentional with your intervals.
2. First be piano accurate.

D. Good breathing technique improves tuning.

1. Breathe high, through a tall space to the low part of the abdomen.
2. Breathe quietly, no tension on intake.

E. Keep the voice light—weightless.

1. Sing with support, not pressure.
2. Employ minimal muscular involvement.

II. Training the chorus to sing in tune.

A. Normal elements of vocal training

1. Relaxation and Alignment
2. Breathing

3. Phonation
4. Resonation
5. Articulation

B. Choreography must support the sound.

1. Movements allow singer to use good support.
2. Alignment is not compromised for dance move.

C. Intentionally match pitches during skill builders

1. Tune a single pitch.
2. Tune a descending 5-note pattern.
3. Tune an extended , faster scale.
4. Tune a sustained chord.
5. Tune a series of chord changes.
6. Tune a phrase.
7. Tune a song.

D. Learn to sing in each other's space.

1. Match pitch
2. Match vowel sounds
3. Match resonating space
4. Match breath energy
5. Culminating in a magnified overtone.

E. Tuning traps in the arrangement.

1. Key changes
 - a. Drill the two measure before and after the key change.
 - b. Establish a new singing space in the new key.
2. Tessitura for all parts

- a. Which part is out of their comfort zone?
 - b. Which part is on their passaggio?
 3. Accidentals
 - a. How many in the same chord?
 - b. Are they northbound accidentals?
 4. Repeated notes—repeated chords
 - a. With each repetition the note must be thought of as higher whether in one part or the whole chord is repeated.
- E. Signs in the music to help the singer stay in tune.
1. First, know where “do” is.
 2. Mark “do” in your music.
 3. Sing your words, rhythms, breath plan on “do”
 4. Be able to sing “do” whenever called on to do so.
 5. Octaves
 6. Major Seconds
 7. Cross relations
 8. Baris above the leads
 9. North-bound accidentals
 10. Key Changes
 11. Returning to a note
 12. Scale degrees 2, 3, 6 and 7.