

**TEACHING YOUNG SINGERS 8-18  
WITH FOCUS ON CHANGING VOICE  
LECTURE PRESENTED TO HOUSTON - NATS  
BY KATHLEEN MARTIN  
NOVEMBER 20, 2004**

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 -**

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 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> 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
2 - 6	Art Songs for School and Studio Vol. 1,2 Med. High - <i>Moderate difficulty</i>	Ditson
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 <sup>th</sup> Century, <i>not difficult</i>	G. Schirmer/HL
2 - 4	Boosey & Hawkes 20 <sup>th</sup> 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 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
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	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	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
5, 6	Handel 45 Arias Vol 1,2,3 H, L	International
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 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> Centuries Vol 1,2 H,L	International
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
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
6	Schubert: Die schoene Muelllerin, 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
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
5, 6	Standard Vocal Repertoire, Book 1 & 2 H, L -	Row
5, 6	Strauss Lieder H, M, L	Peters
5, 6	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Art Songs	Schirmer/HL
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 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> 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 Subert, 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 -

2 - 6	Big Book of Broadway	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 Songs - S,M, T, B/B	Hal Leonard
5, 6	Gilbert & Sullivan for Singers - S,M,T,B/B	Hal Leonard
1	Kid=s Broadway Songbook	Hal Leonard
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
1	Solos for Kids	Hal Leonard
1	Solos from Musicals for Kids	Hal Leonard
2 - 6	Teen=s Musical Theater Collection - 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 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 AGrandi Operisti per Giovanni Cantanti@ a possibility 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 AComplete 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 tessatura) as he matures. 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 very difficult and challenging material to our most gifted and ambitious students.