

Mary Saunders-Barton

# Bel Canto/Can Belto

Musical Theatre Singing for Women

Vocalises For The Flexible Vocal Tract

## Objective #1 The "Hoot" Space--Finding The Head Register

The Owl

Hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

Onsets--try 1st with "h" then without.

hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

Staccato / Legato

Oh oh oh oh-oh-oh oh Oh oh oh oh-oh-oh oh

Legato / Staccato

Oo oo oo oo oo Oo oo oo oo oo

Slow-sustained on one breath.

eh - oh eh oh eh oh eh oh eh

ah - oh - ah - oh - ah Ah - oh - ah

Your highest note

Your lowest note

Glissando

## Objective #2--Finding The Speech Level Mix

Soft palate awareness and control.

### Isolations

1. Panting (like a dog) tongue extended.
2. Incipient sneeze: (AH...AHHH) No choo!
3. Incipient yawn: mouth closed.
4. Incipient swallow: no gulp.

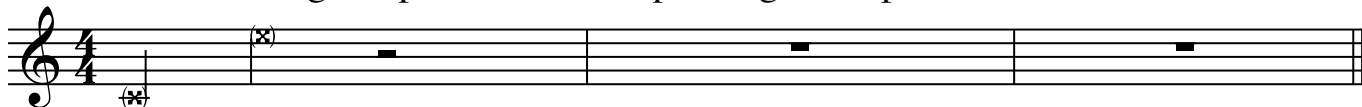
Mixed voice--is the red carpet to the belt.  
"Lay the track--THEN run the train."

Spoken phrases to capture mix.  
(To be repeated in middle voice pitch range--middle C to E5.)

Oh, no you don't!  
May I come in? (try with British inflection)  
No way!  
Never, never, no!  
Where are you going? (accusatory)  
Holy cow!  
Yikes!  
Wowie!  
Hey guys!  
Damn cat!  
How dare you!  
Let me go!  
Hello-o! (duh)  
Hello, boys and girls! (a la Mickey Mouse then in speaking mix)

Make up some of your own. Attitude helps! Be playful!

Use as much range as possible when speaking these phrases.



## Integration of Objective #2

### C. Vocalizing the mixed voice in the middle speaking range

With energy and attitude! Speak the phrase then sing it.

Oh no you don't! Oh no you don't! Oh no you don't!  
 May I come in? May I come in? May I come in?  
 I yearn for you! I yearn for you! I yearn for you!

Oh no you don't! Oh no you don't! Oh no you don't!  
 May I come in? May I come in? May I come in?  
 I yearn for you! I yearn for you! I yearn for you!

No way no way! No way no way! May Oh may I  
 Never no never no! Never no never no!

May-oh may-oh may-oh may-oh my May-oh may-oh may-oh may-oh my  
 Ne-ver ne-ver ne-ver ne-ver no! Ne-ver ne-ver ne-ver ne-ver no!

I - I see, I see! I - I see I see!

Damn cat! Damn cat! Damn cat! HEL - LO - O!!!

Nasalisation for focus (mwanh as in a "smooch")

Whining child

Mwanh mwanh mwanh mwanh mwanh

Wanh wanh wanh wanh wanh!

## Vocalizing the speaking mix (continued)

Closed vowels--maintain legato speaking quality



Nee oo nee oo nee oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo  
yoo ee yoo ee yoo ee ee ee ee ee ee ee ee

Ee ee oo oo

Diphthongs--sing through to point of release with consistent vibrato



Ah oo ee ay ah Where are you go - ing? How dare you?

Nasalising/denasalising--soft palate awareness (pronounce hard-g)



Hung - ah ng Hung - ah - ng - ah Hung - gah ee ee ee ee ah

Coordinating closed and open vowels



Ee ee ah ah ee ee ah ah ee ee ah ah ee ee ah ah ee ee ah ah ee ee ah ah ee ee ah ah ee

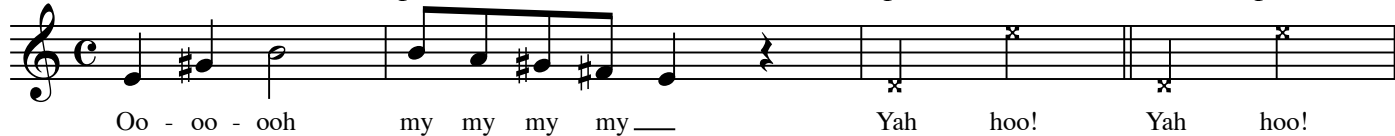
Back and forths--mix to head/head to mix (the ladder goes both ways).  
The following exercises are to help coordinate head and mixed qualities.  
As you do these exercises, make the contrast as great as you can.

Head Speech Head Speech Speech Head Speech Head



Oo - ooh why - not? Oo - ooh no way! Oo - ooh oh no! Oo - ooh you know.

Head Speech Speech Head Head Speech



Oo - oo - ooh my my my my — Yah hoo! Yah hoo!

Speech

Head Speech



May oh may oh may oh may oh my oh my.

# Vocalizing the Belt

The Call--optimum speech at high intensity. Palate raised on inhalation.

Hey, Taxi! Use pitches in mixed speaking range. Although calling in a speaking voice, extend duration of vowels to approach a sung tone.

Call Sing

Taxi! Hey taxi! Ta xi! Hey ta xi!

Ee yah - - - ah! Eh yoh - - - oh!

Yah yah yah yah yah yah yah. Ee ee ee yah - - - ah

Hey hey hey gang! hey hah hey hah hey - - - ah Ta - xi!

Legato--very sustained

Eh	ch	eh	eh	eh	eh	eh
Ah	ah	ah	ah	ah	ah	ah
Ee	ee	ee	yoh	oh	oh	oh
Nee	ee	ee	yah	ah	ah	ah

messa di voce: (the apex of the crescendo is a belt)

oooAHHooo eeeEHHooo aaaAAAAaah ehhAHHehh

messa di voce (practice between G4 and C5)

ooo (head) you (speech) ah (belt) you (speech) ooo (head)