

TERMS

Terms about your voice...

- **Weight** – The amount of “heaviness” in your vocal tone.
- **Head Voice** – The feeling of singing with very little weight. Sound rings in your face. Talk like Mickey Mouse to help you feel this.
- **Chest Voice** – The feeling of singing with more weight. Sound rings in your chest.
- **Space** – How open your jaw, eyebrows, and body are for the sound to ring. More is better!
- **Posture** – The way your body is aligned for singing.
- **Placement** – Where you feel the sound ringing while you sing (e.g. forward in your nose vs. back in your throat)
- **Support** – Making sure the air you breath is making the sound happen
- **Onset** – How you start a sound
- **Resonance** – When you have the right amount of support and space, your sound rings truly!
- **Tone** – The descriptive quality of sound (e.g. Bright, dark, nasal, raspy, deep). A good, resonant tone requires all of the above terms to be working properly!

Terms about singing together...

- **Uniformity** – Everyone is singing the same vowel
- **Entrance** – How you start singing together
- **Cut-Off** – How you stop singing together
- **Unison** – Everyone singing the same notes
- **Diction** – How clearly and accurately everyone pronounces words

Terms about music in general...

- **Beat** – The steady pulse of the music. Usually the thing you tap your foot or bob your head to
- **Rhythm** – The timing of what you sing. We use the beat to help us figure out rhythm.
- **Treble** – Higher sounds
- **Bass** – Lower sounds
- **Dynamics** – Overall volume during a section of music
- **Phrasing** – Using changes in volume, breathing, etc. to shape a line of music
- **Intonation** – Singing in tune. Good intonation means that nothing sounds a little “off.”
- **Measure** – A group of beats
- **Rest** – Silence for a certain number of beats. In other words, don’t sing!
- **Staccato** – Singing very short, punchy, and detached
- **Legato** – Singing very smoothly and connected

MUSICAL RULES

Rule of Posture

- ✓ Weight even on both legs
- ✓ Feet shoulder width apart
- ✓ Back straight
- ✓ Chest up
- ✓ Chin slightly down

Rule of Breath

- ✓ Breathe silently
- ✓ Breathe low into your belly and lower back.
- ✓ Breathe on the vowel you're about to sing

Rule of Sound

- ✓ Breath out comes **before** the sound

Rule of Beat

- ✓ Always tap the beat silently while learning new music
- ✓ If you don't feel the beat, you won't get the rhythm
- ✓ When a note lasts longer than one beat, **phrase it**

Rule of Unison

- ✓ When the choir comes to a unison, make it **softer** and **lighter**

Rule of Weight

- ✓ Never sing with so much weight that you feel like you're shouting