

Does how you breathe really change how you sound?

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In brief ...

SINGING PEDAGOGY ASSUMES:

- Singers have full control over how they breathe in singing
We asked 5 female professional opera singers to sing Caccini's *Ave Maria*. Then we asked, "Draw your ABDOMEN IN on each phrase" and, "Expand your ABDOMEN OUT on each phrase"
They could change abdominal behaviour at the start ✓ but NOT at the end ✗
and they didn't know they hadn't changed at the end, and they unconsciously altered ribcage so lung volume was steady!

We found a boundary between what singers and training can and can't change.

- Teachers can hear changes in breathing behaviour
We asked 14 singing teachers and coaches to listen to the samples and rate:
- the standard of singing, and
- the standard of breath management.
Of course, they didn't know which audio sample was which breathing pattern.

We found that the teachers couldn't always hear a difference ... and it didn't depend on the size of the difference. When they could, they disliked the pattern "least like Habitual" ... regardless of whether that was in OR out and they ranked the singing higher than the breath management.

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References
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In detail ...

