

VOCAL STYLISMS

Legit

Bent notes
Cry
Onsets: soft glottal click, breathy
Portamentos
Swinging the note
Tails
Vibrato

Blues/Jazz

Add-on notes
Bent notes
Cry
Delayed Vibrato
Fall offs/ups
Fry
Growls
Pop Appoggiatura
Retracting Tongue
Scatting
Slides
Swinging the note
Tails
Waves

Country

Add-on notes
Bent notes
Cry
Fall offs/ups
Fry
Growls
Pop Appoggiatura
Retracting Tongue
Riffs or Wails
Slides
Swinging the note
Tails
Waves
Yodel

Pop/Rock

Add-on note
Cry
Fall off
Flip onsets (pop appoggiatura)
Fry
Growls
Onsets: hard glottal, soft glottal click, breathy
Retracting Tongue
Riffs or Wails
Scream
Shouts
Slides
Tails
Waves
Register shift/Yodel

R&B/ Gospel

Add-on notes
Cry
Fall offs/ups
Flip onsets (pop appoggiatura)
Fry
Growls
Onsets: hard glottal, soft glottal click, breathy
Retracting Tongue
Riffs or Wails
Scream
Shadow Vowels
Shouts
Slides
Tails
Waves
Yodel

Character

Add-on notes
Bent notes
Cry
Delayed Vibrato
Fall offs/ups
Growls
Onsets: hard glottal, soft glottal click, breathy
Pop Appoggiatura
Retracting Tongue
Scream
Shouts
Slides
Swinging the note
Tails
Waves
Yodel

Breathy: initiated before or after tone. Blues, Country, Gospel, Jazz, Pop, R&B and character roles

Fry: (sometimes creaky; the arytenoid cartilages drawn together and causes the vocal folds to compress tightly onset or release – sounds like a rattling sound): Country, Gospel, Jazz, Pop, R&B and character roles

Fall-Offs: one note sliding down to no specific pitch

Fall- Ups: one note sliding up to no specific pitch. Country, Gospel, Jazz, Pop, R&B and character roles

Slides: steady slide upward or downward, End Slide-ups, Fry slide

Bending/added blue note: (a short slide from 1/2 note below). Used in Blues, Country, Gospel, Jazz, Pop, R&B and Torch songs

Flip onsets/Pop Appoggiatura: accented grace note from below (1/2 step); often quick. Used in Blues, Country, Gospel, Jazz, Pop, R&B

Cry (grace note from above-sounds like a whine): Used in Blues, Country, Gospel, Pop, R&B and torch songs for emotion

Add-on notes in Country: similar to a pop appoggiatura, uses the prior note as the accent to the next note (usually a third or more higher/lower)

Swinging the note: dotted eighth notes followed by sixteenth notes. Used in Blues, Country and Jazz styles

Yodel or Flip: intentional register shifts from chest to head for effect. Used in Bluegrass, Country, Pop

Growls: low, guttural sound. False folds and pharyngeal constriction. Used for character roles, Country, Pop, Rock, R&B, Gospel

Onsets: hard glottal, soft glottal click, breathy onset

Screams: higher pitch sound with extreme intensity. Used in Pop, Rock, R&B, Gospel

Shadow Vowel Release: (follows final vowel or consonant sound) “you-uh”. Used in character roles, R&B, Gospel

Shouts: Gospel, R&B, character roles

Retracting Tongue – Country, Bluegrass, Gospel, R&B

Waves: < > < >

Tails: 3 & 5 note descending patterns with decrescendo. Used in Country, Pop, R&B, Gospel, Blues

Vibrato: Fast, Wide, Delayed

Delayed Vibrato: Adding a little vibrato towards the end of a long belt note.

Pop Improvisations:

Licks: Brief improvisation – a distinctive few notes, short phrase in pop music or jazz, often improvised

Riffs or Wails: longer improvisational phrases

Most improvisations can be traced back to classical ornaments.

Improvising Rule of Thumb

- Establish original melody first
- Same words/change notes
- Vary the words
- Riffs, Licks, Scatting

Phrasing

Anticipations: coming in before the expected beat

Back phrasing: coming in after the expected beat

Syncopations: weak beat gets the accent

Swung 1/8 notes