

## Sample SHORT and AMPLIFIED COMMENTS for Classical Categories



National Association of Teachers of Singing

RUBRIC	Short Constructive Comments	Amplified Constructive Comments
<b>TONE</b>	<p>Pretty voice</p> <p>Beautiful voice!</p>	<p>Lovely timbre; you are developing a balanced chiaroscuro; aim for a thin core of sound moving through free, open space and out your mask for fuller tone as you develop.</p> <p>What a fantastic instrument! I appreciate your balanced and vibrant tone. Keep working to find even more legato line and spinning consistency, even on the eighth notes in your Mozart aria.</p>
<b>Breathing/ Alignment</b>	<p>Take full, low breaths without tension</p> <p>Keep working on support/ appoggio.</p>	<p>Strive for fuller, easier breaths; try rolling shoulders back and down; breath through a straw for lower inhalation.</p> <p>Excellent poised posture; relaxed and buoyant breathing. Keep working to consistently prepare each phrase with a low, expansive inhalation and a relaxed embrasure; more engagement of your low abdominals towards the end of phrases, especially in melismas and in higher register, so the tone stays connected.</p>
<b>Language/ Diction</b>	<p>Good Italian; German needs work</p> <p>Good work on French</p> <p>Good Italian</p>	<p>Clear understanding of Italian and connection to text; strive for more inside vowel in your mixed vowels in German; send more breath through consonants.</p> <p>Overall, very clear; your French diction is very legato; continue to work for more lip rounding on your schwa.</p> <p>Your Italian diction is very Italianate; continue to refine your legato line and consistently double consonants, when required, and roll double r's even more.</p>
<b>Musicianship</b>	<p>Could use more dynamic contrasts</p> <p>Good preparation of melismas</p>	<p>Well-prepared and accurate; consider more dynamic contrasts and how they assist in story telling</p> <p>Fabulous job navigating the coloratura in the Mozart! Keep striving for even more accuracy in the final melisma in the cadenza. Perhaps practicing it on staccato, then singing it legato.</p>
<b>Artistry</b>	<p>What are you singing about?</p> <p>Very expressive singing</p>	<p>Explore the story of each song; who are you and why are you singing? Tell us the story!</p> <p>You're an exceptionally engaging singer with wonderful expression, connected to the characterization. Continue to develop even more emotional layers within the aria for more dynamic contrasts throughout, especially between the recitative and aria.</p>
<b>COMMENTS ONLY: Ensemble Repertoire</b>	<p>Nice ensemble</p> <p>Some issues with ensemble</p> <p>Good work on the aria but it is a little too much for you right now.</p> <p>You are struggling with the longer phrases in the Strauss.</p>	<p>Good communication and balance between voice and piano; excellent rubato. Ensure that you and your pianist have an understanding of where you need to breathe and have them breathe with you. The piano overwhelms the voice in the aria; discuss the drama and the dynamic contrasts possible for you both.</p> <p>I would encourage you to investigate some lighter repertoire, possibly looking at operetta at this point in your vocal development.</p> <p>Your Strauss piece requires a long breath line so continue to develop more efficiency in your breath management. Your voice would sound lovely on some Schumann.</p>