

From Puccini to P!nk: Helping the Classically Trained Female Sing Pop

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Chest Voice Development

Classically Trained Females...

- are often coming in with little to no instruction in chest voice.
- have often been conditioned to be afraid of chest voice and the effects it could have on their vocal health.
- often have found a strong blended head voice production they are mistaking for chest voice.

“SHOUT!” Exercise

- Use a shout to discover and engage isolated chest voice production.
- Don't swallow the resonance in throat. Tone should be bright and forward, focused behind the teeth and in the mask of the face.
- Do not force the production, and tighten the throat, raising the larynx. There should be a slight yawn feeling that creates space in the throat.
- Once established, integrate the shouted tone into a scale, and eventually an exclusively chest voice song.

Development Process

- The classically trained female will most likely not like the tone when the isolated chest voice is discovered.
- It is important for them to know this is not the final destination, just an important first step.
- The mark of a strong chest voice isn't how loudly you can belt it out, but actually how softly the singer can sing in a true chest voice production, have the musculature hold, and not transition back over to a head voice production.
- It is typically a 3-6 month process of isolating the chest voice and establishing this production before the next stage of developing chest blend can begin.

Words of Caution...

- Monitor vocal fatigue. Begin with 5-10 minute practice sessions multiple times throughout the day vs. longer practice sessions. Gradually the technique will improve, musculature will build, and endurance will increase. Take it slow.
- NEVER carry isolated chest voice production above the break.

Style

- Diction - “Conversational”...sing like you talk.
- Phrasing - Much less legato and consistent than classical style.
- Rhythm - Avoid “precision”. Stay in the groove and pocket, but articulate “in the cracks” staying away from a rhythmic emphasis right on the beat or offbeat.
- Vibrato - Goal is control and diversity. Often a phase of eliminating it completely before intentionally adding it back in.
- Tone Color - Develop breathy tone and raspy tone in addition to pure tone, and experiment with resonance changes for diversity.

Chest Blend Characteristics

- Nasal Quality
- Less decibels than chest voice
- Narrow Focus

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