

CLASS TITLE: UNIT SOUND

OBJECTIVES:

1. To identify the elements—aural and visual—of a unified performance.
2. To demonstrate techniques to achieve synchronization.
3. To highlight common synchronization problems and their causes and resolution.

I. Resonance

- a. Match posture
- b. Inhalation and Resonance
- c. Match resonating space
- d. Intention of the sound

II. Pitch

- a. Section agreement
- b. Relationship within chord
- c. P tuning

III. Words

- a. Match Vowel Sounds
- b. Match consonants

IV. Make Music Don't Just Sing

- a. Walk the phrase
- b. Move the body
- c. Sing the meaning of the words.

FIVE ITALIAN VOWEL SOUNDS

EE -- SEE
EH -- MET
AH -- FATHER
OH -- ROSE
OO -- TOOL

EE -- Pull tone from forehead.

EH -- Hand on chin, to keep jaw loose.

AH -- Form "C" with hand and flip in front of face.

OH -- Draw circle around mouth with finger.

OO -- Pull tone from your lips.

SYNCHRONIZATION ERRORS AFFECT TUNING IN ALL FOUR CATEGORIES

COMPLEXITY OF VEHICLE

- jumpy part lines
- too high/low for one or more parts to control or balance well
- phrase length demands
- dynamic demands sometimes leading to vocal overdrive
- fast tempos with many words per measure

TEMPO / METER AGREEMENT

VOWELS:	"CHEWED"	SLOW TO OPEN	TOO SHORT
	TOO LONG	UNCLEAR	DIFFERENT
	INCORRECT	DIPHTHONG OMISSION	

BREATHING: DIFFERENT TIMES
DIFFERENT STYLE
TENSION CAUSING GASPING

DIFFERENCE IN INTERNAL PHRASE EMPHASIS

"MUSHY" OR POOR ARTICULATION

VARYING EMPHASIS ON CONSONANTS (including omission)

"CHOPPY" SINGING (lack of tone flow)

TENSION IN JAW AND/OR TONGUE

"BOUNCY" CHOREOGRAPHY

LACK OF ENERGY/INCONSISTENT BREATH PRESSURE

OVERSINGING (diminishes vocal flexibility)

UNLIKE MENTAL FOCUS

INCONSISTENT LISTENING AND TEAMWORK

STAGE FRIGHT

- Diminishes unit sensitivity and vocal control
- Diminishes visual/vocal congruity

NOTE AND WORD INSECURITY

NEED FOR VISUAL UNITY