

Steps To Learning A Solo

In General

- Be very thorough when going through these steps. For example, can't get past step 5? Do not move on to step 6. It will only make things more difficult down the road.
- If you are struggling on any step, isolate specific problem spots. Break down tough rhythms or intervals.
- For any step that requires singing or chanting, see if you can successfully perform that step 3 times in a row without any errors. This can help ensure that you are truly able to advance to the next step!
- And remember, ALWAYS sing with the desired tone and vowel!

Having Trouble with a step?

If you are confused or feel stuck on a specific step, please reach out to Mr. Park or Mr. Stultz. You can communicate via email or in class. We are here to help!

Where to find practice tracks?

Go to clearcreekchoir.com/solo-ensemble. This page is password protected. The password is cchschoir. Click the "Solo and Ensemble Practice Tracks" button. This will take you to a google drive with all of our solos in alphabetical order. Scroll to find your vocal demonstration and piano accompaniment tracks. If your solo is in a foreign language, there will also be a pronunciation guide track.

Without practice Tracks

1. Write in the solfege for the entire song.
2. Write in the counts for the entire song.
3. Sing the song on solfege without paying attention to rhythm. Learn the notes and intervals but not with the rhythm.
 - a. You can find your starting pitch from your practice tracks or a piano app.
4. Chant the entire piece on counts. Isolate any rhythms that you have trouble with.

With Vocal Demonstration Track

Most of the steps below will not sound exactly like the vocal demonstration track. Sing along to your vocal dem. track as a tool to better solidify pitch and rhythm.

5. Chant the entire piece on solfege with the correct rhythm.
6. Sing the song on solfege with the correct rhythm.
7. Sing the song on a neutral syllable (like "doo" or "dah") with the correct rhythm.
8. Chant the text of the song in rhythm. Do not sing any notes.
9. Identify the correct vowel for each syllable, and write it in above or below each note.
10. Sing the song just on vowels to better focus on the correct vowel shape. No consonants.
11. Sing the song on text with the correct rhythm.
12. Figure out the appropriate places to take a breath or to not breathe.
 - a. Never breathe in the middle of a word and try to breathe at the end of phrases or where there is a punctuation mark. Mark where you are breathing.
 - b. Mark where you are not breathing to remind yourself when singing.
13. Observe the dynamics of the piece.
 - a. Sing the song while paying attention to the changes in loudness or softness.
 - b. You can also add in musicality (crescendos decrescendos, etc) for expressive purposes.

With Piano Accompaniment Track

Some of the steps below are the same as the previous steps with the vocal demonstration track. The vocal dem. track is a crutch. You may find it harder to do some of the next steps without a voice singing along with you.

14. Sing the song on solfege with the correct rhythm.
15. Sing the song on a neutral syllable (like “doo” or “dah”) with the correct rhythm.
16. Chant the text of the song in rhythm. Do not sing any notes.
17. Sing the song on text with the correct rhythm.
 - a. Are you still observing your breaths and no-breaths you marked in?
 - b. Are you still following the marked dynamics and expressive markings?

Memorization

Depending on the length of this long-term project, you may be asked to follow the steps below. Stay on top of the weekly assignments to see if memorization will be applied.

18. Pick a few of the following activities to better help you remember the words.
 - a. Write the words over and over again on a separate sheet of paper. First few times while looking at the music then without.
 - b. Memorize the first word of each line and make a sentence out of these words.
 - c. Notice words that rhyme.
 - d. Notice which words begin with the same letters.
 - e. Draw pictures of the story that you are singing about.
 - f. Act out the words by yourself or with a family member/friend.
19. Examine the text from a poetic standpoint. What is the meaning of the text? How can you relate to the story?
20. Look at the music to see if there are any places where the composer interpreted the poem through his/her music. Are there examples of text painting? How does the music fit with the meaning of the poem?
21. Use what you know about the poem and the music to interpret the song. Are there any places you would like to emphasize specific notes or words? What else can you offer in the piece to make your performance more personal?
22. Perform the piece for as many people as you can! You can sing to family, facetime friends, or even pets!