

The Latimerlo Studio

Monthly Newsette

September 2016



Gina's Singing Tip

SINGING "RUNS"

Everyone enjoys a good run. "Runs" are the complicated pitch and rhythm variations that performers like Beyonce use to ornament their vocals. Runs show vocal prowess and musical ability...

...because they are hard to do! It is important to first learn runs that already exist in songs, so that you understand their characteristics before you try to create your own. In learning a run, you have to listen to it over and over again until you can hear it perfectly in your head before you attempt to sing it.

Runs also require a lot of practice. One difficult run can take 2-3 hours of practice itself. Check out this review to see what I mean. The girl I reviewed in this video has a pretty voice, but didn't put in the work required to make her runs clean: <http://www.voicecouncil.com/luriana-lucianne-listen-cover/>

OPERATIVE WORDS

The best performers are the best communicators. It is not enough to simply feel the emotions of your character; your job as an actor depends on your ability to express those emotions in a way that communicates them clearly and profoundly to your audience. Facial expressions, non-verbal cues, and blocking are all part of that communication. But, perhaps your greatest tool as a singer and actor is your voice and, simply put, the way that you say your words.

In every day communication, we unconsciously stress the important words in our sentences. We "lean" on the words that carry our intended meaning. This is great, because the listener's brain will only really capture the words that you are emphasizing. The rest of the sentence gets lost. As a performer, you can capitalize on this by choosing "operative words." Operative words are the words that you consciously choose to emphasize (by making them louder, drawing them out, or even playing with their pitch and rhythm in a song).

Try the following sentence: ***I never said she stole my money.***

Say it seven times – each time emphasizing a different word. The meaning of the sentence completely changes! See what I mean!?

MORE INFO ON LEARNING HOW TO SING RUNS

Singing runs requires a different kind of muscular coordination – it's called "vocal facility."

Vocal facility means your vocal cords can move and change positions very quickly and with ease. This is a different skill than just singing loudly and well, and it can take some time to develop. I can give you some exercises in the studio to work on – just let me know. Again, the most important thing is to make sure you actually know clearly what the notes in the run are (as I explained above). Once you know the notes, start doing them slowly and in rhythm and then gradually increase your speed.

There's a cool web series on youtube with Natalie Weiss called "Breaking Down the Riffs," and you can try studying along with her at home and see which of the techniques work for you!

Here is the link to get you to the first episode of the web series. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIlhUJwfSyA>

Auditions Around the Bay

MAJOR BARBARA: Pear Avenue Theatre

Mountain View
Casting for 5-ROLES, ages 21-30 Pay: Total approx. \$1350 / Rehearsal \$400 / rehearsal day travel stipend \$15 / \$60 per show. Please prepare an upbeat youthful monologue. May be given sides to read. How to Apply: Please email Melvina Jones at Melvij@gmail.com, and put "Hunger tour 2016" in the subject line. Attach your headshot and resume. NOTE: You must have a valid drivers license, clean driving record and transportation. For more detailed information email Melvina at melvij@gmail.com.

IT'S A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGERS: Jarvis Conservatory Napa

Happens every first Saturday of the month. If you are a new performer in the Bay Area or have not performed at IT'S A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGERS before, the summer months are a great time to come to the Napa Valley to sing. If you have performed here before you know what an appreciative audience awaits you again! Each singer receives an honorarium of \$150 to sing two songs. To apply, please fill out the online application at http://jarvisconservatory.com/iagnfs_application.htm. Please have PDF files of music scores and headshots emailed to info@jarvisconservatory.com. For more info visit the webpage on the Jarvis Conservatory website.

CHRISTMAS CAROL: THE GIFT: Notre Dame de Namur Univ Belmont

Show includes kids and adults. Fee to participate for all. Fun for families to do together. Show opens in December; auditions in mid-September. Prep 1 min upbeat Song. Info on the company at <http://www.christmascarolthegift.com>

WINTERFEST: California's Great America

Santa Clara
Seeking: Non-Equity performers, over the age of 18, with dynamic personalities, who are able to entertain by connecting with an audience. YULE Cool Christmas: Male and Female Vocalists with a strong pop/contemporary sound and presence. Belters and tenors/baritenors who move extremely well. Holly Jolly Trolley: Male and Female Vocalists with a classic/Broadway sound for a Turn of the Century feel. Sopranos, altos, tenors and baritones who move well. \$600/week. Please prepare two contrasting 16-bar pop/rock or musical theatre selections showing range and personality. I bring dance clothes/shoes. Auditions Sunday, August 28, 2016 from 10am-1pm (sign in at 9:30am) & Monday, August 29, 2016 from 8-11pm (sign in at 7:30pm). Rehearsals November. Performances November 25-27, December 2-4, 9-11, 16-23, 26-30, 2016 at California's Great America. Open Call - sign up at designated time prior to audition. Visit www.rwsandassociates.com/auditions for more info.

ARE WE ALMOST THERE YET? THE TRAVEL MUSICAL

San Francisco
Female 25-50 for parts in various comedy songs and sketches as part of comedy ensemble. Non-AEA. Paid. Audition Prep & Materials: One ballad, one upbeat song, one comedy song and a one-minute comedy monologue. Auditions by appointment only at Phoenix Theater, 414 Mason Street, San Francisco. Rehearsals October 22 through November 17, 2016. Performances Fridays & Saturdays Nov. 18 through Jan. 28 at Phoenix Theater, 414 Mason Street, San Francisco. How to Apply / Contact Appt: Call Morris (415) 713-6486 or mobobrow@comcast.net. Hairspray"

HAIRSPRAY: CMT San Jose

San Jose
Adult performers 19+ Limited roles for performers ages 14-18. Non-AEA. Stipend. Audition Prep & Materials: Please bring a 32-bar audition cut of one song in the style of the show. Sheet music only – no karaoke tracks, no a cappella auditions. Please bring a copy of your headshot and resumé. Auditions September 6, 7, & 8 at 1401 Parkmoor Avenue, Suite 100, San Jose, CA 95126. Callbacks September 9-10. Performances December 2-11 in San Jose. Appt: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c49afa82ea5fd0-49th>. Performances December 2-11 in San Jose.