

Stage 1 (New Piece) Activities

- Listen to multiple recordings
- Divide piece into sections
- Choose performance tempi
- Choose rehearsal tempi (if needed)
- Map interpretation
- Research – context, style, composer background, etc.
- Translate text (create an IPA sheet)
- Learn to recite the text effectively without music
- Learn the melody in small sections using solfeggio, playing on the piano, and/or listening, sing each section on the [a] vowel with great technique, then put sections together (remember the 3X Rule)
- Learn tricky rhythmic sections without text or melody using rhythmic syllables (du-de and/or du-da-di), taken at a slower tempo
- Speak the text in rhythm without notes (once the text has been sufficiently learned), remembering to “speak-sing” on the appoggio
- Synthesize the previous steps, putting them all together
- Appreciate the “Big Picture” of the piece – seek to understand it
- Develop a relationship with the piece – images, memories, feelings, etc.
- Use a metronome when working melody, rhythm, and text-in-rhythm
- Once learned, train your attention to look ahead a phrase while singing (again, use a metronome)

Stage 2 (Developing Piece) Activities

- Bring things up to tempo
- Add other expressive markings such as dynamics, articulation, and more
- Memorize using “looking ahead” skill (remember 3X rule)
- Once a section feels it is about where it should be, record and refine further
- Enhance your “looking ahead” skill by including expression (not just notes & rhythms) in bigger phrases/ideas
- Experiment (within the style)

Stage 3 (Performance Piece) Activities

- Run through completely, recording and refining
- Imagine you are performing, monitoring nerves, focus, ability to keep attention moving ahead
- Experiment and renew (especially with pieces you have had for awhile)
- Play!!