
Top Tips from Top Vocal Coaches

Are You Prepared to Perform?



www.ThePreparedPerformer.com

Nothing beats a private coaching session, but the top tips from top coaches will definitely set you going in the right direction as you work at being Prepared to Perform!

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Introduction

Molly Mahoney

The Prepared Performer

Congrats!! You are a singer who is taking action!!
You downloaded this book and that means improving and strengthening your instrument is important to you.

In this book you will find advice from top vocal coaches from all over the world. I know there are many nuggets of inspiration that will speak directly to you. And... I'm sure there are a few that won't. Ha! Every voice is different and every singer processes feedback differently. That is why it's so important to seek out information, to find a coach that you connect with, trust and admire and get personal one-on-one feedback. (Maybe you'll even find someone new within the pages of this book!)

I see so many singers each month and each of them is different. There is ONE tip that I give my students that I know helps them to stand out in an audition or performance situation. Can you name the one thing that you can bring to an audition or performance that will set you apart from everyone else? What one thing will give you the absolute best shot at being cast or wowing a crowd?

The one thing is... YOU! More than anything you will find in this book, or with any coach I want you to remember that you are the secret to your own success. Before you do anything with your skills as a performer, know what makes you an awesome person. Know what fills you with joy, what makes you unique. As a singer, you are the instrument! If you aren't able to celebrate your own awesome, the path of a performer will be a tough one.

Take these tips, grab on to the advice that you need in this moment and put it into action. Once you've mastered whatever it is you are working on now, come back and read this book again... something new is sure to speak to you!

I want to send a huge thank you to the coaches who gave their tips to this book! If their tips speak to you, you can find their websites listed below their names. And, I am always happy to help and offer advice as you continue on your journey. Shoot me an email - Molly@ThePreparedPerformer or a Facebook message. www.Facebook.com/ThePreparedPerformer



Adrienne Osborn

www.PerformanceHigh.net



Tip #1. Just BE, don't DO. Don't feel like you have to "perform" and "entertain." It's distracting to watch a performer who feels like they need to over-act. When you strip away extra, non-natural movement and over-amplified expressions, you and the audience can both connect more to the lyrics and who you really are.

Tip #2. Stay inside your wheelhouse. You'll feel much more confident when you know you can reliably do everything you plan to do on stage - from hitting a high note to singing some complex run. But if you aren't 100% sure about everything, that lack of confidence will seep into other parts of your show and the audience will pick up on your nervousness.

Tip #3. Contrary to tip #2: Don't worry about perfection - at least not until you're playing really big, high-profile shows! If you're a perfectionist, the moment something goes wrong on stage - and it will, sooner or later - it can derail your attitude, which then causes even more problems. Know that every show is a learning experience, and mistakes happen on stage. If you don't let on that something went wrong, oftentimes the audience doesn't even know! If it's a really big train-wreck, then acknowledge it with humor, pick yourself up, and keep going.

Can I give one more tip? If so, here's #4:

Tip #4. Don't analyze your gig the same day you play it. Enjoy the high. Judgement is for tomorrow. Today is for enjoying your accomplishment.

Andrew Byrne

www.AndrewMByrne.com



Tip #1. If you're getting strain in your voice when you belt, you're probably not creating enough muscle energy in your pelvis. Try bending your knees as you approach your belted note, and see if the sound comes out more easily.

Tip #2. It's important for a singer to know if their hearing is of equal volume in their right and left ears. Try listening to your favorite song with an earbud only in your left ear. Now repeat it on the right. Did it sound louder in one ear? If so, take note of which ear heard the music more loudly, and try angling that strong ear towards your accompaniment source (piano, guitar, karaoke track) when you are practicing or performing.

Tip #3. Being a well-trained singer requires great practice habits. Before you can create those habits, you have to know what kind of person you are when it comes to meeting expectations. Take my "What's My Performing Personality" quiz here to learn more about yourself and how you should train: <http://www.andrewmbyrne.com/test/whats-my-performing-personality/>

Angela Durrant

www.AngelaDurrant.com



Tip #1: Fall in love with the practicing of your craft as much you have fallen in love with the dream of being a great performer. Practice is a relationship with yourself.

Tip #2: Most people avoid practice because it is repetitive, alone and tells you the truth. Being on your own in the practice space, means that you will get frustrated, suffer negative thoughts, walk away, push too hard and even express the tears of self-doubt that you will ever be "enough". If you stay present to what is going on and let all that fear pass then you will also begin to transcend every limit you every placed or had placed on you. You will take those exercises and repeat them and repeat them and repeat them. You will look in the mirror and re-correct your posture and refine your art. This is where as the author Stephen Pressfield says "the War of Art" is fought.

Tip #3: You turn pro on the inside before you ever turn pro on the outside. We can microwave our fries and our popcorn, but not our human growth and development. While singing competitions promise the short cut to a career for some - the fast track is actually hidden in the seemingly slow place of practice, and even though a great engineer can auto-tune a pitchy vocal in the studio, the pendulum will swing round again to the understanding that, great artists produce great art and the world will beat a path to the door of a performer that has the skill set and the mindset to be great in all weathers. They can only take an audience to the edge because they have gone there themselves.

Donna Flynn

www.VocalCoach.ca



Tip #1. To make more progress with your breathing exercises, try doing them laying on a yoga mat or carpeted floor. Lying down, keeps your shoulders from going up and down every time you inhale or exhale. This puts all the focus on the areas you need to exercise the most and will train you to control your breathing, which eventually transfers to controlling your voice.

Tip #2. Your body uses two glasses of water every night when you sleep. If you wake up feeling that your voice has dropped in pitch or feels scratchy, a lack of hydration may be the cause. Start each day by drinking two glasses of water, to replace what you lost overnight. That morning roughness will wash away.

Tip #3: Only do vocal exercises suitable for your voice and leave out everything else. Did you know that a female vocal cord vibrates faster than a male vocal cord? Did you know that a male vocal cord is longer than a female vocal cord? The differences from voice to voice are many. Seek out a qualified Vocal Coach who can properly assess your voice and give you exercises right for you. This will save you a lot of time and keep you from spending money on things like training cd's and books that do not address your individual needs. Remember, a little expertise goes a long way.

Elisa James

www.ElisaJames.com



Tip #1. **Mind Set** : I have coached and mentored talented singers from Europe, America and Australia for over 20 years and have noticed that successful performers all have one thing in common: A business and professional mind set. There are many singers out there that are not the best singers in the world by far, but they all have these three things in common:

- 1) They are well prepared before any audition or performance,
- 2) They turn up early and are well presented physically (in accordance with the requirements of the job) and
- 3) They learn their material fast and approach every gig with the utmost professionalism. This is the true difference between a part-time or amateur singer and a professional.

Tip #2. **BE YOURSELF**: There is only ONE of you and we don't need a carbon copy of anyone else out there. So find your strengths, your gifts and your passion and be brave enough to step into your own power and BE AUTHENTIC! People will love you for it!

Tip #3. **PRACTICE**: Since our voice is an instrument made up of muscle, ligament and cartilage, it is imperative that you keep it flexible, resilient and strong. The only way to do this is practice! Make an appointment in your calendar for regular practice and just do it. We can always tell when a singer does not sing enough - the voice becomes lazy and not accurate or stable.... so get out there and do your voice work daily.

(c) Elisa James Holistic Voice Coaching Studio

Ella Glasgow

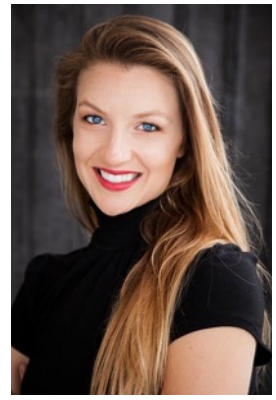
www.singoutloudstudios.com



Tip #1. Things to keep in your cupboard during cold season: colloidal silver, acidophilus (at least 1 billion cultures), and ester c. At the first sign of a cold, take 1 tsp colloidal silver under the tongue for 1 min then swallow. Take 1 acidophilus pill followed by 8oz water. Take 1 thousand milligram ester c. Do this 3x daily until cold symptoms are subsided.

Tip #2. Here's a super awesome cough remedy that'll work better than cough syrup (and cost WAY less). Take a tbs of whole flax seed and 1 cup of water. Boil. Be sure to watch the pot. Don't let it boil longer than 1 min or you'll have gel...which is cool if ya want some toxin free gel for your hair 🤪. Strain the liquid into a cup. Add a tsp of honey and sip. The flax seed water will coat your throat to help with the tickle in your throat and the honey is also a natural cough suppressant.

The information Ella has given is not medical advice and should not be treated as such. Please consult a medical professional concerning symptoms of illness



Erin Roberts-Hall

www.MusicalTheatreu.com

Tip #1. Keep many irons in the fire. Audition rejection is easier to swallow when you have 5 other possibilities brewing.

Tip #2. Never stop working on your technique. Continue to take acting, dance and music classes, always.

Tip #3. Be willing to make a fool of yourself. This is a tip most actors easily know when they are onstage, but utilize this off stage too. Be willing to start at the bottom, take small roles, ask for help, ask for feedback, ask "stupid" questions, and be a beginner. Life has many beginnings :)



Kevin Michael Jones

www.KevinMichaelJones.com

Tip #1. Always take a holistic, full body approach to singing. Voice maintenance isn't just about singing scales and warming up regularly. In order to ensure that the vocal mechanism is performing at optimal capacity, you **MUST** get an adequate amount of sleep, eat a nutritious and anti-inflammatory diet catered to your body's needs, manage stress and anxiety in a healthy manner (yoga, massages, acupuncture, whatever works), and develop a personal and intimate connection with your singing.

Tip #2. Take the time to find a functional voice teacher who can directly address your individual needs and who recognizes that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to singing. Remember, that teacher is going to be working with you and your body, so it is important to ensure that he/she is knowledgeable and trustworthy. Different genres of music require different technical and stylistic approaches. Just as many doctors specialize in specific areas of medicine, every voice teacher and vocal coach has a unique focus area and set of professional skills as well. Voice training **MUST** be catered to the individual and his/her personal and professional goals.

Tip #3. **ALWAYS** be open to new approaches, and never stop learning. Remember, no one voice teacher or vocal coach knows everything about singing. The voice community is constantly learning new information about the human voice, and it is important to stay up-to-date with the most recent research out there (or keep in touch with someone who does). Simply put, you wouldn't go to a doctor who **ONLY** uses techniques from over a century ago, so I encourage you to hold voice teachers to that same standard. Ask potential teachers about their professional background and methods, and stay far away from teachers who claim to know everything about singing.



Laurel Mehaffey and David Harris

www.VoiceScienceWorks.org

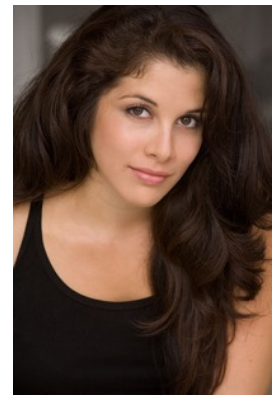
Tip #1. You, the singer, are the expert on how singing feels to you. In every learning experience, own this expertise by noticing, listening and asking questions.

Tip #2. Most of the vocal instrument cannot be seen or touched. Empower yourself by seeking out knowledge in contemporary voice science to help demystify the singing process. Working from a place of knowledge saves time, diminishes stress, and increases enjoyment.

Tip #3. Make expression and communication a regular part of your practice routine. Allow yourself to get close to the emotional aspects of your repertoire every time you sing. Bringing together artistic experience with developed skills takes intention and practice.

Michelle Hernandez

www.OCProVoice.com



Tip #1. When approaching performance, keep your goal in mind. What is my character trying to do? How can I accomplish this? Remember that there are different tactics we use to get what we want. Throughout the performance piece, your character should try several tactics to accomplish your goal—just like in real life! (example: If my little brother is annoying me and I want him to stop, my GOAL is then to get him to stop. How do I do it. First, I tell him once, "Stop." If he continues, I say it louder. If he still continues, I start yelling, maybe throwing things at him. Hm.. That's not working either? Ok, I bargain with him next; "If you leave me alone I will let you have my DS all day tomorrow." That didn't work? Ok then, next I threaten to tell on him.) Remember you are trying to make a change in someone or something! It won't (and shouldn't) come easily!

Tip #2. Always be prepared for class. This seems straight forward, if you can spend 10 minutes the night before a lesson or a class making sure all your materials are ready (lyrics printed, tracks and/or sheet music prepared, folder and pen ready to go, phone charger/change of clothes/water bottle/etc. packed...), more class time can be spent working on the material itself, rather than trying to gather materials that you could have organized beforehand. This goes for auditions, job interviews, and other life events as well!

Tip #3. Slow down when trying a new technique! Don't rush it! I specialize in Pop and Rock vocals and performance, so I work with on their riffing skills. This is a tough one. We hear pop stars and professionals move in and out of those notes with such agility and ease, we just want to be able to do that, too! But why can't I do it!?! You're probably trying to go too fast. Take it step by step. Step 1: Figure out what the notes are in the run. If you don't have an ear for it, use an app or software like Audacity to slow the tempo so

you can hear each note. If the riff is written in a high range, you may want to sing it down the octave while you are learning the notes. Step 2: Sing each note in time at a SLOW tempo, by either setting a metronome app or, if you have good rhythm, clapping or snapping. Do this 10 TIMES! Step 3: When you don't even have to think about the notes anymore, increase the tempo a bit. Now sing it at this new tempo until it's clean and easy. Now move the tempo a bit faster. Do this until you are at or even a bit faster than the actual tempo. Step 4: Don't forget this riff is PART of your performance, not JUST a fun technique! Riffing is used to heighten emotion! Don't forget to include your riffs when you score your acting journey!

(I'm gonna do a 4th one if that's OK.)

Tip #4. You are on stage from the first piano note till the vibrations from the final chord no longer ring in the air! The intro, outro, and TRANSITIONS of your song are almost more important than the song itself. Just because my mouth isn't moving, doesn't mean I'm not still performing! This can be awkward for many. The question is always, "What do I do?" The main thing to remember is that your performance piece comes from a place of truth and want! This is where keeping your goal in mind and scoring your tactics comes in handy. Why did I stop talking? How do I get my next idea? As humans, we don't have to think about ideas, they just come to us. As actors, we have to work through thought a process moment by moment. If I haven't filled my transition with a new thought or game changer, then the song should be over right there! If I don't have anything new to express or discover, then there's no reason to sing 3 more verses about it! As a performer, my goal is to tell the story by presenting and discovering information, and then dealing with it—even (and especially) if it's when I'm silent!

Molly Mahoney

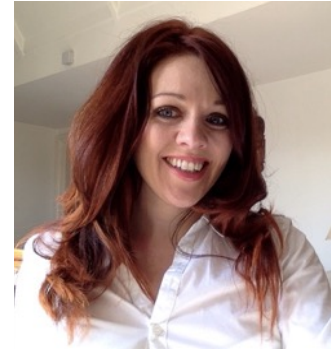
www.ThePreparedPerformer.com



1. Remember that every voice is different. Just because something works for someone else, does not mean it's the right exercises or adjustment for you. Be brave and willing to try new ideas, be hungry in your quest for knowledge about the voice and the stage. AND, whenever possible get feedback from a vocal coach that you can trust.

2. It's usually best to think of keeping the sound inside your mouth rather than pushing it out. Often, singers come to me wanting to belt crazy notes and they have so much tension that they feel like they are choking. They swear they are supporting and doing everything "right." If you feel that way, try this. - Keep your chin down. - Lift your ears (pull on them with your fingers as if you are becoming an elf) - Think of shooting the sound back and smiling with your back teeth - take a low deep breath and as you bend your knees - smile and say a big loud high pitched - Baaaay! It works almost every time! Use that and slowly start modifying the vowel so it matches the vowel you need for your song.

3. Treat your singing (career or hobby) like a business. Put in the work. Keep track of energy that is going out and coming in. Use systems for practice, for connecting, and for following up. Be nice to EVERYONE! Celebrate the good all around you and you will attract more good. (For more specific tips on this go to www.PaidPerformer.com)



Nicki Shira Byrne

www.ShiraVocalCoaching.com

TIP #1. - 3 STEPS TO EFFORTLESS SINGING BLISS!

Learning how to sing well can be overwhelming. So remember there are just 3 steps to Blissful Singing. PREPARATION, REPETITION, PERFORMANCE.

1. Always PREPARE the song by learning words and melodies off by heart (or creating your own), picking the right key for your voice and interpreting the story.
2. REPEAT the song and any vocal exercises you know over and over EVERY DAY so that you build muscle memory
3. PERFORM every song from The heart and tell the story. Connect with the music and audience and you will achieve effortless, blissful singing every time you perform.

TIP # 2- LEARN TO IDENTIFY VOCAL STRAIN AND HOW TO STOP IT FOR GOOD

Sometimes singers are straining over and over and don't even realize it, because your body has gotten used to it. So try "talking". Just count in your normal speech voice up to 20 or so. And pay attention to how that feels. Call that zero effort. Yes it takes energy, (everything does) but it is effortless.

Now imagine the worst strain you have ever experienced. I am talking veins standing out on your neck. That's a 10 on the effort scale.

So each time you sing (scales are a good place to start, starting low and moving up) check in with how much effort you are using. Is it 1, or 2 or 10 or zero on your effort scale. And if it is anything over zero, then you are straining!

To stop vocal strain for, you need to work with a reputable vocal coach, who will give you exercises and direct you on using your voice without straining.

TIP #3 - HOW YOU THINK AFFECTS YOUR SINGING & YOUR CAREER!

Developing the right mindset is crucial for successful, effortless and blissful singing. This can be applied to both your voice and your career.

You are the creator of your own experience in this life. And there are infinite opportunities and choices that you can make in any given moment. The choice is yours. But much of the time, people “believe’ that there is only one way to do things.

How this applies to your voice?

The body is your instrument, and your body always follows your thoughts and emotions. We need the body to be relaxed when singing. You can chose to believe that singing is effortless, or singing is a struggle. Which thought do you think will affect the body in the right way? Which thought will help to keep the body relaxed so that the voice will have the opportunity to work effortlessly?

How this applies to your career?

Many singers believe that there is only one way to create a successful singing career. We get an idea in our heads and we start to take action towards that goal, but often find that we don't get to where we really want to be and lose heart much of the time

Remember that goals can change, paths can change, and there are always many different choices. You just need to keep an open mind and look at all possibilities, not just one. You can create choices, which gives you great freedom. And from this place of effortlessness, success will come.

Teri Danz

www.TeriDanz.com



Tip #1. Warm up, warm up, warm up! The warmer your voice is the better you will be able to manage your range, hit high notes (and with ease) and sound more relaxed and comfortable. Do exercises in combination with singing (not just singing).

Tip #2. Get it in the Right Key - Key is everything for a singer and a half step makes a difference. I always try a song in three keys - the one you think you'll sing it in, a half step higher and a half step lower. Depending upon the song, make sure you hit the chorus in a stable yet high and powerful part of your range.