

A Guide to Performing!

Learn and understand your lyrics!

Too many singers perform songs without knowing or actually fully understanding their lyrics. In order to give a convincing performance you need to be completely aware of the story you are telling whether you are singing an original song, covering another artist's song or playing a character.

Movement Awareness

Be aware of your performance space and if possible use it as much as you can. This again, can help with audience engagement and your energy can affect theirs. It's incredible important to have a great body and voice/breath connection as a singer therefore you need to work on your spatial awareness. Through trial and error you can explore your performance space to see what feels most suitable for your character/persona/artistry.

Look Into My Eyes...

Eye Contact is extremely important and is an excellent tool to use when establishing a connection with your audience.

Telling A Story

Unlike other musicians, vocalists have to contend with lyrics. This can be both challenging and helpful when thinking about performance. You need to completely understand the lyrics of a song and take the audience on a journey throughout the performance. This can help with engaging the audience and keeping their interest. The emotions and within the song can determine what vocal and physical decisions you make.

Practice as much as possible!

Start with smaller gigs and work your way up to bigger ones. This could be in the form of live online shows, videoed performances, busking, open mic nights, small gigs in bars/cafes/restaurants etc. The more practice you get, the more comfortable you will be with performing.

Microphone Technique

Microphones are a wonderful tool for amplifying your sound so the audience can hear you.

Sing directly into the microphone and not over it like you see all the time! If you sing over the top of the microphone head, frequencies are lost so it is really important you hold the microphone straight with your hand in front of your face. When using a microphone stand make sure that the microphone is still at this straight angle.

Leave a gap of between one and two inches between your lips and the microphone head. If you get louder you can slightly move the microphone away but no more than a further two inches and keep the microphone straight in front of your face. If you move any further away you will run the risk of not being picked up by the microphone.

Don't cup the microphone head with your hand as this can cause feedback and distort your voice.

Practice, Practice, Practice!

As singers, we often get pinned as the leader of the band whether we like it or not! This means we often have to organise rehearsals, gigs, set lists, performances and rehearsal spaces. All these things require lots of practice as we need to fit our piece of the jigsaw with all the other members of the band in order to create a cohesive and professional performance.

Keep Vocally Healthy!

Keep on top of your vocal hygiene routine so you are able to perform with maximum flexibility!

Lots of Steaming - the only way to directly hydrate your vocal folds

Lots of Hydration - it takes approx. two hours for the liquids you drink to get to your tissues and therefore hydrate your vocal folds together.

No Shouting - includes banging the vocal folds together. Prolonged banging may cause swelling.

No Whispering - involves constriction (we will revisit this when learning about the 'false vocal folds' later in the term)

Voice Rest - illness, allergies etc.

Don't just think about how it sounds but how it looks!

Think about what your act looks like from an audience point of view. Does the sound match up with the visuals? If not - and it isn't on purpose - consider your outfit as well as any other members in your band.