

# Singing in “Toon”!

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Sage Symposium  
Newcastle

10<sup>th</sup> November 2007





# What we are going to cover:

- | The Sound Category
- | Intervals
- | Balance
- | Blend – Vowels
- | Staying in tune



# By the end of the session...

You should:

- | Gain an understanding of some of the issues that affect tuning
- | Learn about some tools that can help us with tuning
- | Take part in exercises to help with tuning



What do you think might  
affect our tuning?





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# The Sound Category – Unit Sound

## | Vocal Skills

- | Posture, breathing, phonation, resonance, articulation

## | Accuracy

- | Notes, intervals, chords, tuning/intonation, section/part accuracy, synchronisation

## | Blend

- | Tone and vowel production, chorus blend

## | Balance



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# Intervals

- | Sing the right note at the right time!
- | How do you get from one note to another?



# A song for every interval!

Minor 2<sup>nd</sup>

C-Db

| ***Jaws***

Major 2<sup>nd</sup>

C-D

| ***Strangers in the Night***

Minor 3<sup>rd</sup>

C-Eb

| ***Greensleeves***

Major 3<sup>rd</sup>

C-E

| ***While Shepherds Watched***

# A song for every interval!



Perfect 4<sup>th</sup>                      C-F

| *Away in a Manger*

Perfect 5<sup>th</sup>                      C-G

| *Lavender's Blue*

Minor 6<sup>th</sup>                      C-Ab

| *Love Story ("Where do I begin")*

Major 6<sup>th</sup>                      C-A

| *My Bonny lies over the ocean*



# A song for every interval!

Minor 7<sup>th</sup>      C-Bb

| ***Somewhere (West Side Story)***

Major 7<sup>th</sup>      C-B

| ***Maria (West Side Story)***

Octave      C-C

| ***Heigh Ho!***



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# Balance (a bit of physics...)

- | Cone-shaped sound
- | Reinforced overtones = lock and ring
- | 1 – 5 – 3 – 7b
- | Notes 1 & 5 are **more** important
- | Notes 3 & 7b are **less** important
- | Which note are you singing in the chord?
- | How does this affect tuning?



# What we are going to cover:

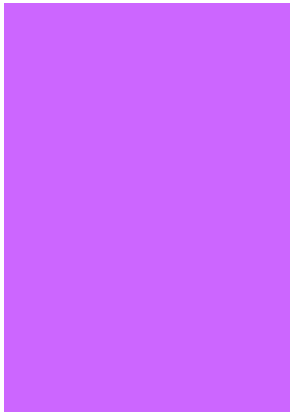
- | The Sound Category
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# Blend

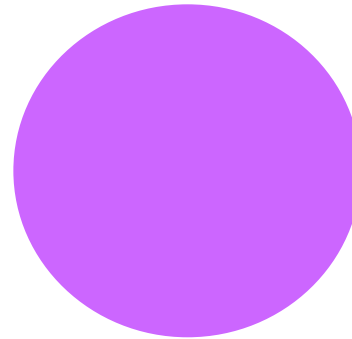
- | Vowel sounds
  - | Affect blend and tuning
- | Unified sound
  - | Approach vowels in the same way
- | Sounds out of tune if we don't match
- | What tools can we use to help us?

# Blend – Vowel Shapes

(with thanks to Jim Arns)



**AH**

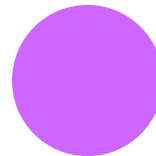


**OH**

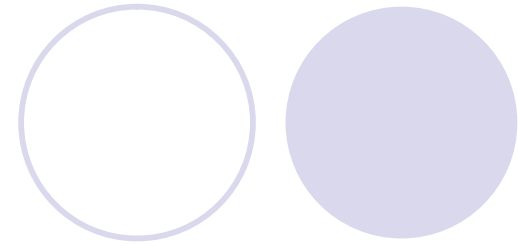


**EE**

**EH**



**OOH**





**An exercise for vowel  
matching**



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# How can we *stay* in tune?

- | Focus on:
  - | Posture / breath support / resonance / lift
  - | Quiet passages
  - | Descending notes
  - | Sustained notes
  - | The Director!
- | Have one section (or sections) sing on the key note while the rest sing the tune
- | Close your eyes



## To conclude...

- | Everything we do as singers affects tuning
- | Vocal skills are the foundation
- | Relax and enjoy!

***Thank you***