

Overview of the Expression Category

Handout

Introduction to the Expression
Category

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THE FOCUS OF THE EXPRESSION CATEGORY IS.....THE EVALUATION OF THE PERFORMER'S ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE MUSICALLY. IN VOCAL MUSIC, COMMUNICATION IS STRENGTHENED BY THE MEANINGFUL DELIVERY OF LYRICS, MUSICAL DICTION, ARTISTIC PHRASING, APPROPRIATE DYNAMICS AND A PROJECTION OF SINCERE EMOTION.

THE EXPRESSION JUDGE LISTENS TO A PERFORMANCE WITH HER PRIMARY CONCENTRATION DIRECTED TO EVALUATION OF THE DEGREE OF ARTISTRY ACHIEVED IN THE VERBAL EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE SONG. ALTHOUGH SPECIFIC AREAS REQUIRE HER SCRUTINY, THEY ARE INSEPRABLE IN THAT, BLENDED TOGETHER, THE RESULT IS AN ARTISTICALLY SATISFYING ENTITY. SHE REWARDS A PERFORMANCE WHEREIN:

- 1. REASONABLE PROFICIENCY IN THE BASICS OF GOOD VOCAL PRODUCTION HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO THAT A PROPER FOUNDATION FOR EXPRESSION IS PRESENT.**
- 2. ALL MEMBERS OF THE PERFORMING GROUP HAVE ACHIEVED REASONABLE PROFICIENCY IN THE VERTICAL SYNCHRONIZATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF THE SONG, INCLUDING PRODUCTION OF VOWELS, INJECTION OF CONSONANTS, TURNING OF DIPHTHONGS, ATTACK AND RELEASE OF ALL SYLLABLES, USE OF NUANCES AND VOCAL INFLECTION SO THAT THE LYRICAL PRESENTATION DEMONSTRATES UNITY.**
- 3. TECHNIQUES OF PHRASING, DYNAMICS, TEMPO AND RHYTHM ARE USED EFFECTIVELY TO SUPPORT THE SUBTLER ELEMENTS OF INFLECTION, FINESSE AND SMOOTH DELIVERY OF THE WORDS, SO THAT THE RESULT IS A SENSITIVE, ARTISTIC MUSICAL PRESENTATION.**