

FORWARD MOTION

FORWARD MOTION:

- Creates anticipation for what's coming next
- Is the sense that whatever is happening at this very moment will need some kind of response of resolution
- Relates to stress and release
- Is the secret to musical vitality
- Creates excitement
- Keeps listener engaged

All songs need forward motion – ballads and uptunes alike

FORWARD MOTION ≠ SPEED

- It's not how **FAST** you get there, it's the path you take to get there.
- Forward motion does **not** mean a fast tempo.

TYPES OF FORWARD MOTION:

- Musical: harmonic and melodic – the chord structure and melody line lead somewhere. They have destination. Eventually, they lead to the tonic chord. As singers, we don't control the musical elements. The composer and arranger take care of these elements, but when the singers are aware of these musical components, we can capitalize on them, creating musical tension and release when we design the interpretive plan.
- Rhythmic – build musical tension by steering shorter notes to longer notes. Lean into some notes and let others flow while maintaining the meter of the song.
- Lyrical – lyrics tell part of the story.
- Physical – incorporate physical movement to keep the audience engaged
- Emotional – the audience will stay engaged when there is continual attention to the message of the song

MUSICAL PHRASING:

- Every phrase has shape to it
- Rise, fall, direction
- Musical and lyrical phrasing must go together
- Not speed, but how you shape a piece of music
- Connection of the phrases and thoughts is key
- Ebb and flow within phrases
- Ebb and flow within the song as a whole

BREATHS:

- Use breaths to connect thoughts and emotions
- Pacing of breaths
 - Vary pacing to elicit the desired emotion
- Breaths are part of the musical message
- Breaths are not empty spaces; fill them with emotion
- Identify emotion for each breath
- *Inspiration* (inhalation) = *inspiration* (the power of moving emotions)

LYRICS:

- Lyrics tell part of the story, but the music itself also tells a story
- Be aware of the musical elements. Highlight area where lyrics and musical elements align.
- Use words sounds (diphthongs, singable consonants) as transportation from one word to the next
- Read lyrics as a dramatic poem. Which words do you emphasize? What phrasing do you use when reading? Incorporate this to create lyrical flow and meaning when you sing.

EMOTIONAL COMPONENT:

- Ask questions to bridge one thought to another
- Ask questions at the ***end of the phrase***
- Answer the question/change emotion ***at the end of the phrase*** to make a bridge to the next line
- Changing emotions at the end of a phrase invites the audience to go on the journey with you instead of reacting after the change

Forward motion is needed in every song. It adds vitality and life to our performances. It creates anticipation. It engages the audience and lets the audience know that the best is yet to come!