

The Vocal Symphony: Mastering Your Instrument

Learning objective: To understand the physical components of the human voice and explore the techniques required to control pitch, volume, and timbre for expressive singing.

Max the Monkey is trying to compose a vocal puzzle! To solve it, you must correctly identify the parts of the body used for singing and explain how they work together to create sound. Read the technical descriptions below and match them to the correct anatomical term from the word bank. Then, answer the deeper thinking questions to demonstrate your understanding of vocal control.

Word bank: Diaphragm · Larynx · Vocal Folds · Resonators · Pharynx · Articulators

1. 1. This dome-shaped muscle sits below the lungs and provides the power for your breath support. Which part is this? (1 mark)

2. 2. These two bands of tissue vibrate when air passes through them to create sound. What are they called? (1 mark)

3. 3. Explain why it is important for a singer to use their 'Articulators' (lips, tongue, and teeth) clearly during a performance. (3 marks)

4. 4. Compare and contrast how the 'Pharynx' and the 'Resonators' (like the chest and head cavities) affect the quality of a singer's tone. (4 marks)

5. 5. Justify your answer: If a singer stands with a slumped posture, how might that affect the efficiency of their diaphragm? (3 marks)

6. 6. What might happen to the sound of a voice if the vocal folds become irritated or strained? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the human body profile and label where the diaphragm and larynx are located. Use arrows to show the path of air from the lungs up through the throat.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an opera director. Write a short paragraph explaining how you would instruct a soloist to change their 'timbre' to make a sad song sound more melancholic compared to a triumphant song. Use at least three of the technical terms from the word bank in your explanation.