

Mastering the Voice: A Guide to Singing

Learning objective: To understand the technical terminology and vocal techniques required for proficient choral and solo singing, as per the Year 5 Music curriculum.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of vocal production and performance. Read the term or question on the left, then check your understanding with the answer on the right.

Posture

The way you hold your body when singing, standing tall with feet shoulder-width apart to allow the lungs to expand fully.

Diaphragm

The dome-shaped muscle located below the lungs that helps control your breath support during singing.

Pitch

How high or low a musical note sounds, determined by the frequency of vibrations.

Unison

When two or more singers perform exactly the same notes at the same time.

Dynamics

The volume of the music, ranging from very quiet (piano) to very loud (forte).

Breath Control

The ability to manage the flow of air while singing to sustain long phrases without running out of breath.

Enunciation

The clear pronunciation of words, ensuring the audience can understand the lyrics being sung.

Harmony

Two or more different notes played or sung at the same time to create a pleasing musical effect.

Tempo

The speed at which a piece of music is performed.

Timbre

The unique 'colour' or quality of a person's voice that makes it sound different from others, even when singing the same note.

What is the role of Nova the Owl's 'diaphragm' when she sings a long, soaring melody?

It supports the air pressure needed to keep the note steady and prevents the voice from wavering.

Why must a choir consider 'dynamics' when interpreting a poem set to music?

Dynamics help convey the emotion and mood of the lyrics, allowing the choir to highlight specific words for dramatic effect.