



# MERLIN WORKS IMPROVISED SINGING

1. Tips for Improv Singers
  - a. NO FLINCHING: however you sing it, that's how it goes
  - b. COMMITMENT and CONFIDENCE
  - c. Find the EMOTION
  - d. LISTEN
  - e. REPETITION
  - f. REPETITION
2. What Rhymes?
  - a. A word and itself: Cat and *Cat*
  - b. A word and a "rhyming" word: *Cat* and *That*
  - c. A word and a "rhyming" made up word: *Cat* and *Glat*
  - d. A word and a combination of words or compound word: *Cat* and *Baseball Bat*
  - e. A word and a slant rhyme: *Cat* and *Hot*
  - f. A word and a wraparound: *Cat* and *Attaching*.
  - g. A word and any word with commitment: *Cat* and *Dog*
3. Ways to Share Songs
  - a. Lead Singer and Backup Singers
  - b. Couplets
  - c. Every other line
  - d. In one voice
  - e. Build it a sound at a time
  - f. Echo (delayed mirroring)
  - g. Weaving (different, overlapping lines)
  - h. Call and Response
  - i. Countdown
  - j. Round (Row Row Row Your Boat)
  - k. Tagline Verse x2, Weave
  - l. Counterpoint:
    1. Busy/Complex
    2. Sustained/Soaring
    3. Sparse/Simple
4. Song Structure: Sample Formulas
  - a. Tagline: Verse Verse Verse Ending
  - b. Verse Chorus Verse Chorus Bridge Chorus
  - c. Chorus Verse Chorus Verse Chorus
  - d. Counterpoint
5. Rhyme Schemes
  - a. ABCB\* recommended, only rhyme once, lots of famous songs use it
  - b. AABB
  - c. ABAB
  - d. AAAA
6. Homework: Critical Listening
  - a. Identify parts of songs: intro, verse, chorus, bridge, tag etc. Listen for music changes and cues that let you know where you are in the song
  - b. Listen to different genres and styles of music. Scan the radio
  - c. Listen to what you like about a song
  - d. Pay attention to how much repetition there is in a song
  - e. Listen for choruses you like to sing along with
  - f. Listen to the word choice, sentence structure, and content of the lyrics
  - g. Listen to how many different notes there are in the melodies
7. Homework: Rhyming
  - a. When you are walking around, point and say word that rhymes with what you're pointing at
  - b. Have rhyming conversations
  - c. Play around with a rhyming dictionary—you'd be surprised what words have lots of rhymes
  - d. Try 1,2, 3, and 4 syllable rhymes
  - e. Practice a singing rhyming game on your own: Beastie Rap, etc.
8. Homework: Sing Along
  - a. Sing along to your favorite songs. Try to imitate the singer's voice.
  - b. Make up new words for familiar melodies
  - c. Harmonize with familiar melodies
  - d. Sing your everyday conversations to your roommates and cats.



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