

IF YOU CAN HEAR FAST, YOU CAN SING FAST

1. Step one in speeding up your coloratura is to sing it adagio and with smooth legato.

Singing fast starts with singing slowly.

2. While singing slowly, think about WHAT you are singing. Which pitches are consonant? Which are dissonant? Which units of pitches are you executing? This concept is important for the audiating ear. We are going to ask it to start hearing multiple pitches at the same time in order to allow our voices to move more quickly. Another way to think about this is that

You don't have time to construct the line interval by interval like when you sing slow music.

We will have to learn to hear units of pitches and train our voices to execute these groups in one flowing motion.

3. Learn how to practice in rhythm without abandoning our mantra one breath impulse per phrase. Sing a dotted rhythm (long/short→long/short→long) on each of the coloratura figures while keeping your breath smoothly engaged, thus singing with continuous dynamic and vibrato. You are trying to hear each group of short→long as a unit in your ear before you sing it.

4. Next we do one long, 3 short→one long and expand the unit of pitches we hear before we release our bodies to execute it. Stay on the long note as long as needed to hear the unit of three fast notes and their arrival on the next beat before you sing them (“release your body to sing them”).

NO METRONOMES!

Sing the tempo in which you can audiate successfully.

In this moment you want to experiencing what we call marcato with the ear, legato with the breath. You must hear the pitches CRYSTAL CLEAR with the ear and then allow the breath to connect them SMOOTHLY. Articulation of the pitches originates in the ear. It is of the utmost importance that in the absence of the dreaded h's or tongue or jaw motions, the ear articulates effectively.

5. Last step is to explore at what tempos you can sing your coloratura while always keeping your audiating ear just a step ahead. Don't expect your body to sing something your mind has not imagined yet. The brain (audiating ear) stays engaged and the boss of the body.

Think TA-KA-TA-KA-TA or DU-BI-DU-BI-DU but sing AAAAAAA!

(Sing TA-KA-TA-KA-TA or DU-BI-DU-BI-DU first if you'd like! It's fun!)

Close your eyes and really see the patterns as you sing them.

Abandon your brain at your own peril!