

SINGING FAST STARTS WITH SINGING SLOWLY

If you are not going to "articulate" the pitches with aspiration, your tongue or your jaw, where does the clarity come from? THE EAR. I am not talking about "listening to yourself" like an audience member. I am talking about audiating pitches before you sing them.

Singers are often told: "Don't listen to yourself." The sad byproduct of this is putting the audiating ear under lock and key as well. This "inner ear" is essential to singing coloratura. By the way, it is also essential in clean onset and "picking a color". You should not sing without imagination.

For the singer the most important part of imagination is
hearing the pitch before singing it.
And hearing it PERFECTLY.

Another way of explaining this is:
**you cannot expect your body to achieve a goal
if you do not set a specific one.**

Sing your coloratura exercises slowly, hearing the pitches before you sing them.
Singing fast starts with singing slowly.

And then you sing faster without changing how you sing. If your voice is properly trained, and your musicianship skills are up to snuff, you do not need to gain a second technique and abandon the one you have to sing coloratura. **If you can hear fast, you can sing fast** will help you speed it up, but first things first.

Think about the coloratura passages in your exercise or aria as a combination of patterns. Learn to execute them smoothly, and then voilà! You can sing fast! We will refer to these patterns as units of pitches. Find Behold the Mighty Appoggiatura to discover how variations on the appoggiatura relate to these patterns. Isolate clearly all the turns your voice can take:

scales ("trains of passing notes")
appoggiaturas and acciaccaturas
mordents and inverted mordents
turns and inverted turns
flips (mostly thirds, but also larger intervals)

Step one in practicing coloratura is to sing it adagio and with smooth legato. Always come back to step one. This is where you check in to make sure every pitch is secure both in your ear and in your voice. Nothing will derail your coloratura singing more than an iffy pitch somewhere. Keep it slow and steady until you can sing it perfectly with your eyes closed!