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# WELCOME

Welcome to Skill Set Summer 2023! This syllabus is tailor-made for singers and teachers of singing who are interested in a skill-focused and research-based approach to the nuts and bolts of singing. We firmly believe that skill and art cannot be separated. As we say: Refine your technique. Unlock your imagination.

The summer can be a time of great growth for singers at all levels. If you are professionally engaged in a summer festival either as a soloists or young artist, dedicate a little time every day to your own personal development as a singer. It is easy for your own individual goals to get lost in the schedule of the company you are working for. Make sure to carve out some "me time."

If you have some down time this summer, you can really invest in yourself and your craft. A mere 30 minutes a day spent in constructive skill development will have you ready for a new season. Starting a new school year or facing an audition season after the summer? Invest time now.

If you want to explore the material in this syllabus with other singers we invite you to join us either online or in person. Our online group meets 10 times over the course of the summer or you can join us in New York for our in person training week between July 24 and 28. Take part in our concert at Opera America on July 29. You can also sign up for both if you are feeling extra studious!

For supplemental work to this syllabus we suggest our signature course <u>The Vaccai Projec</u>t, available at Amazon. It contains extensive research and essays supporting the material we will use during the summer.

Have a great summer!

whell erricle Rachelle Jonck & Derrick Goff



## SUPPORT OUR WORK

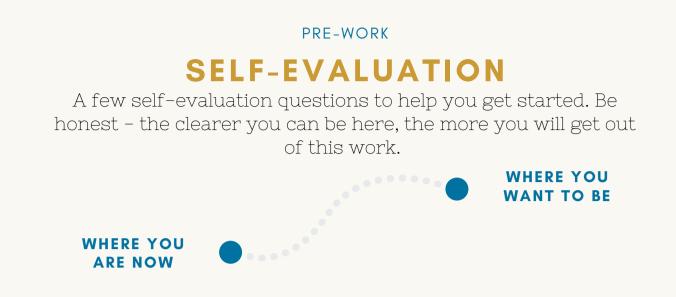
This syllabus is made available to you free of charge. Please consider supporting our work by visiting our Annual Campaign page and sharing it with your friends and colleagues.

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



# If you cannot sing a phrase exactly as you imagine it, you need more skills, not more opinions about how the phrase should go.

- RACHELLE JONCK



01. What is legato and how do you achieve It?

02. What do you listen for when you listen to other singers?

03. What are your goals for every practice, voice lesson, and coaching? Do you and your team have a solid plan to execute?



#### PRE-WORK

# **SELF-EVALUATION CONTINUED**

04. What do you think about when you practice? In lessons? In auditions? In the rehearsal room? In performance?

05. What do you practice every time you practice?

06. Where do you feel more vulnerable: in the practice room or on stage? Why?

07. What do you perceive you need to get to the next level? Is it in your control?



## PRE-WORK HONESTY CHECK

01. On a scale of 1 to 10, how is your mastery of legato?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
02. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much control do you have over your dynamics?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
03. On a scale of 1 to 10, how adept are you at moving your voice?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
04. On a scale of 1 to 10, how successful are you at executing a trill?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
05. On a scale of 1 to 10, how often are you successful at executing what you imagine?	1	2	3	4	5	6 то	7 •TAI	8	9	10

#### THE NUMBERS DON'T MATTER

- **5 TO 20** Surprise! We are all singers on a journey. You are probably better at one or more of these things than you imagine. We're glad you're here.
- **21 TO 35** Every singer we have met is on a path of learning and developing excellence. We aspire to create a community that inspires excellence.
- **36 TO 50** We love skilled singers at Bel Canto Boot Camp. We look forward to helping you grow as you continue to hone your skills.



# 66

If artists come to a realization of their deficiencies, they lack only too frequently the courage to acknowledge them to others. Not until we artists all reach the point when we can take counsel with each other about our mistakes and deficiencies, and discuss the means for overcoming them, putting our pride in our pockets, will bad singing and inartistic effort be checked, and our noble art of singing come into its rights again.

- LILLI LEHMANN, HOW TO SING

# **WEEKLY PRACTICE PLANNER**



"Every voice is different, but there is not a new technique for every voice." - Rachelle Jonck



# RESOURCES **DAILY HABIT TRACKER**

	Μ	т	W	т	F	S	S	
SKILL SET ROUTINE								
Legato	$\bigcirc$							
Laryngeal Registration	$\bigcirc$							
Dynamics	$\bigcirc$							
Agility	$\bigcirc$							
Trill	$\bigcirc$							
VOCALISES	$\bigcirc$							
	$\bigcirc$							





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## LEGATO THROUGH THE AGES

Let him learn the Manner to glide with the Vowels, and to drag the Voice gently from the high to the lower Notes, which, thro' Qualifications necessary for singing well, cannot possibly be learn'd from Solfa-ing only, and are overlooked by the Unskilful. Tosi: Observations on the Florid Song, 1723

By this portamento is meant nothing but a passing, tying the voice, from one note to the next with perfect proportion and union, as much in ascending as descending. It will then become more and more beautiful and perfected the less it is interrupted by taking breath, because it ought to be a just and limpid gradation, which should be maintained and tied in the passage from one note to another. The portamento cannot be acquired by any scholar who has not already united the two registers, which are in everyone separated. Mancini: *Practical Reflections on Figured Singing*, 1774

Through some disjunct intervals [the singer] will carry the voice with such an inflection that it will pass by way of an indefinite number of sounds of which one cannot specify the pitch.

Asioli: Scale e salti per il solfeggio, Preparazione al canto ed ariette, 1814

By carrying the voice from one note to another, it is not meant that you should drag or drawl the voice through all the intermediate intervals, an abuse that is frequently committed - but it means to "unite" perfectly the one note with the other. Vaccai: Metodo Pratico di Canto Italiano per Camera, 1833

Carrying the voice (*port de voix - portamento di voce*) is leading from one pitch to another passing through all the intermediary pitches possible. The portamento can include everything from the semitone to the biggest range of the voice. Its length is taken on the last portion of the note that is left. The speed depends on the character of the music to which it belongs.

Connecting pitches (*vocalisation liée - agilità legata e granita*) is passing from one pitch to the other in a clean, subtle, spontaneous way, without letting the voice be interrupted or tarry on an intermediate pitch...So that legato coloratura shows all the characteristics of perfection, it is necessary that the intonation be irreproachably just; it is necessary that all the notes have an equality of value, sound, and color, and finally that all the pitches be equally legato. We can hardly achieve this goal after a year and a half of study.

García: A Complete Treatise on the Art of Singing Part I, 1847

Without legato there is no singing; and, the two things that render the human voice superior to every other instrument are the power of legato, and the variation in color.

F. Lamperti: The Art of Singing According to Ancient Tradition and Personal Experience, 1884

The pupil must observe a strict legato, a smooth and unbroken passage from one tone to the other. The breath must not be interrupted between the tones, but flow evenly as if a single tone were sung.

G.B. Lamperti: The Technics of Bel Canto, 1905

Legato was often taught by first rehearsing deliberate, audible, portamenti between pitches, which were subsequently reduced in duration to the point of imperceptability. Voice in this regard is analogous to a string instrument on which pitch is changed with the tuning key, not on the fingerboard, and for which the bow continues while the string is being retuned. It involves very rapid changes in vocal fold tension from one sustained, vibrant pitch, to the next, rapidly moving through the intervening micro-pitches too quickly for them to be perceived. Kenneth Bozeman: *Kinesthetic Voice Pedagogy 2*, 2021

# LEGATO

If we change the length of our vocal folds while keeping our breath engaged, we hear what the Italians call *portamento*. It is just how the instrument works. Ain't no other way to get there unless you interrupt your air flow (oops! now you are no longer singing legato) or separate the pitches in some other muscular way, for example with your jaw (oops! now you are no longer binding together smoothly). While portamento is not the goal – legato is – portamento is the result of truly consistent breath between the pitches. Call it "support" or "cheesecake" if the word portamento scares you. Just do it!

All the old treatises follow onset and *messa di voce* exercises with portamento. We should too. Excerpts are from Marchesi – semitone and tones and some bigger intervals if you feel like it. At BCBC we often just sing legato semitones and tones up and down from different pitches (pick pitches while showering or lying on the floor just like you did with your one note exercises). We call it "flossing" since it is something you should do every day. I'm serious.

#### YOU MUST PRACTICE PORTAMENTO EVERY DAY

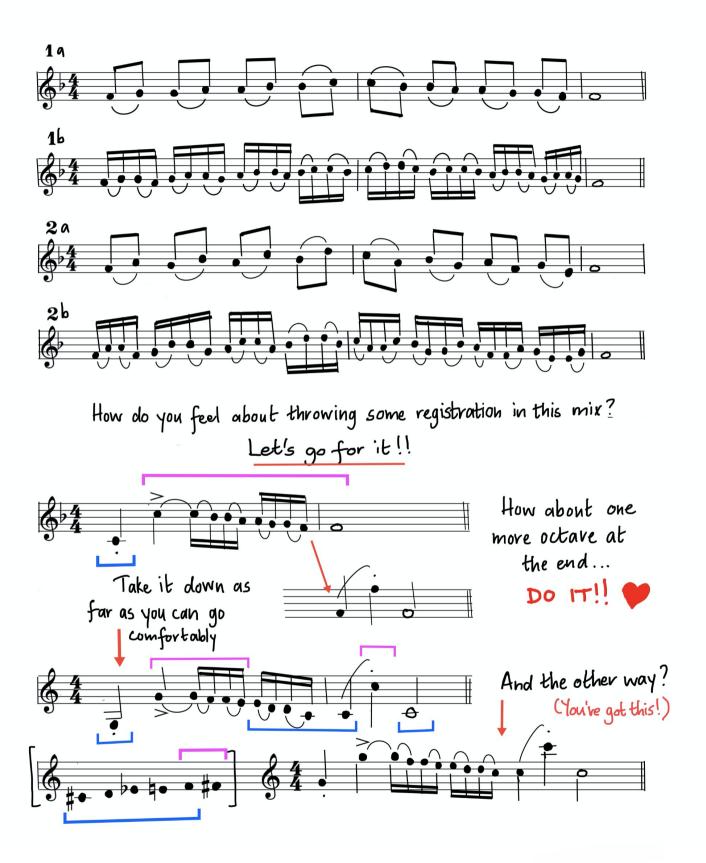


practice on all vowels, especially /a/

Change pitches without interrupting your air (support). It seems pretty basic, but do you do it? In all your small intervals?



## LEGATO AND REPEATED NOTES





# LARYNGEAL REGISTRATION SKILL SET SUMMER 9093 ed registration 100210



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## COME YODEL WITH ME - TREBLE

**ISOLATING REGISTERS** 

🥮 sing whatever is your easiest chest vowel on the bottom (i or a) [C. chest c. h. c. h. c. h. h.] c. h. h. head you are nervous before your Met debut sing the words below! u и u High on a hill was a lone by goat-herd Lay ee o de lay ee odl lay hee hoo Then giggle and shake Sing also in Pt (starting on Ct of the nervous because G (starting on D) you know how to do this Ab (starting on Eb) (starting on E B<sup>b</sup> (starting on F) BUT only as high as you can sing the lowest note in chest easily -NO BELTING! Sing also in E (starting on B) Eb (starting on B<sup>b</sup>) D (starting on A) C# (starting on GT, C (starting on G) AND keep the upper notes in head easily. Middle C and C# will not be loud in head voice, but it essential to build for good register transitions. NO PUSHING! from The Vaccai Project Repertoire application

## COME YODEL WITH ME - TENOR

**ISOLATING REGISTERS** 

The purpose of this practice sheet is to develop head voice coordination, aka letting your falsetto inform your chest dominant singing past the passaggio.



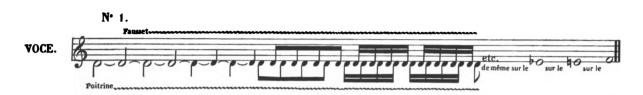
## COME YODEL WITH ME - BAR/BASS

ISOLATING REGISTERS

The purpose of this practice sheet is to develop head voice coordination, aka letting your falsetto inform your chest dominant singing past the passaggio.



# HISTORICAL SWITCH EXERCISES



García starts his switching exercise here on a single pitch. This might work for you but it might make more sense for your voice to do these exercises in reverse order, starting with No. 4



Note how García sticks consistently to F4 as the highest note in "poitrine" (chest).





If a minor third is not large enough to get clarify the laryngeal tilt for you, extend to even larger intervals. We will encounter basic laryngeal exercises for the treble voice in vaccai's lessons on sevenths and octaves.



sure qu'on les fait plus facilement, il faudra presser le mouvement jusqu'à ce qu'on puisse chanter d'une seule respiration le N° 8. Il faudra faire attention de chanter jusqu'au Fa en voix de poitrine, tant en descendant qu'en montant.

#### Viardot: "One must take care to sing up until F in chest voice, both descending and ascending"

García, Traité complet de l'art du chant (1847), Viardot, Une heure d'étude (1897)

#### **HISTORICAL SWITCH EXERCISES** UNIFYING CHEST AND HEAD REGISTERS

Garaudé for treble voices: Mengozzi for treble voices:

In the "modern era" (roughly the era of the microphone) the preference for "smooth transition" resulted increasingly in "no transition." This had the inverse effect on the treble and nontreble voice: treble voices started to avoid the chest transition singing consistently in M2 while non-treble voices increasingly remained in M1 after the advent of the "do di petto". This modern approach to registration was not the order of the day during the heyday of Italian opera. Performing the Italian repertoire becomes an ever more daunting task for singers as we move further and further away from training registration in this classic manner.

Garaudé for tenors:

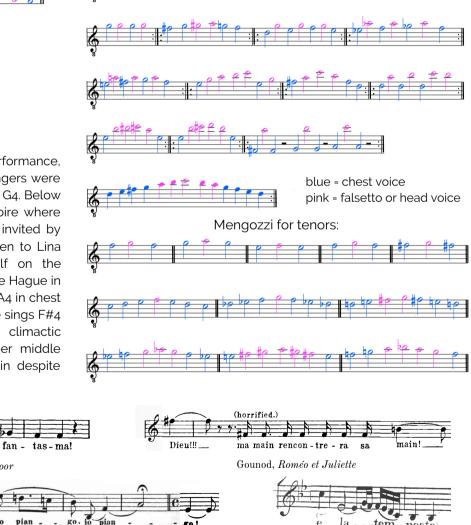


While F4 was the norm in performance, exercises like these illustrate that singers were encouraged to practice the skill up to G4. Below are some examples from the repertoire where chest dominant singing above F4 is invited by the composer. It is interesting to listen to Lina Bruna Rasa (with Mascagni himself on the podium) in this live recording from The Hague in 1938. Even more interesting than the A4 in chest at the end of the aria is how often she sings F#4 and G in chest - and not only in climactic phrases. Notice how calm the upper middle voice and secondo passaggio remain despite the "chest heavy production."

il

Donizetti, Lucia di Lammermoor

pian



Mascagni, Cavalleria rusticana

go, io

pian

Mozart, Così fan tutte Most singers find it easier to move through G4 staying in "light chest" in this passage

\_tem\_nesta,

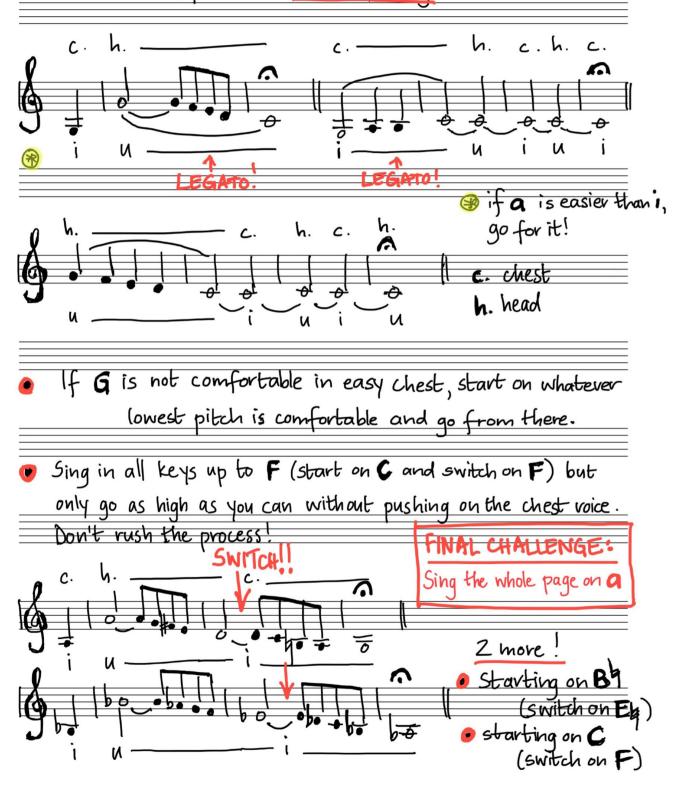
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Garaudé, Méthode complète de chant (1854) Mengozzi, Méthode complet (1840) from The Vaccai Project

nian

#### **COME SWITCH WITH ME - TREBLE** UNIFYING CHEST AND HEAD REGISTERS

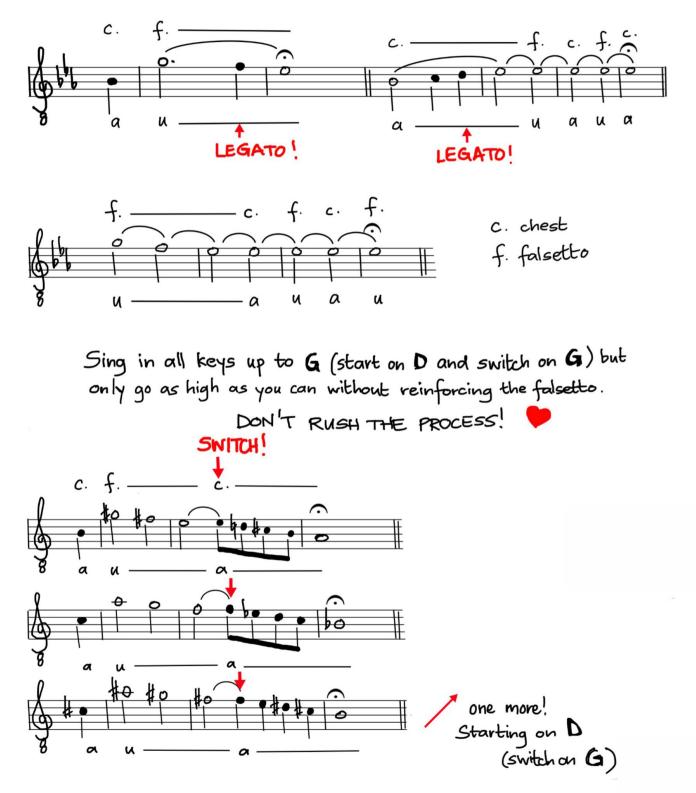
Do NOT push the envelope! Sing only in the range you can achieve ease of production without puching in either chest or head.



from The Vaccai Project

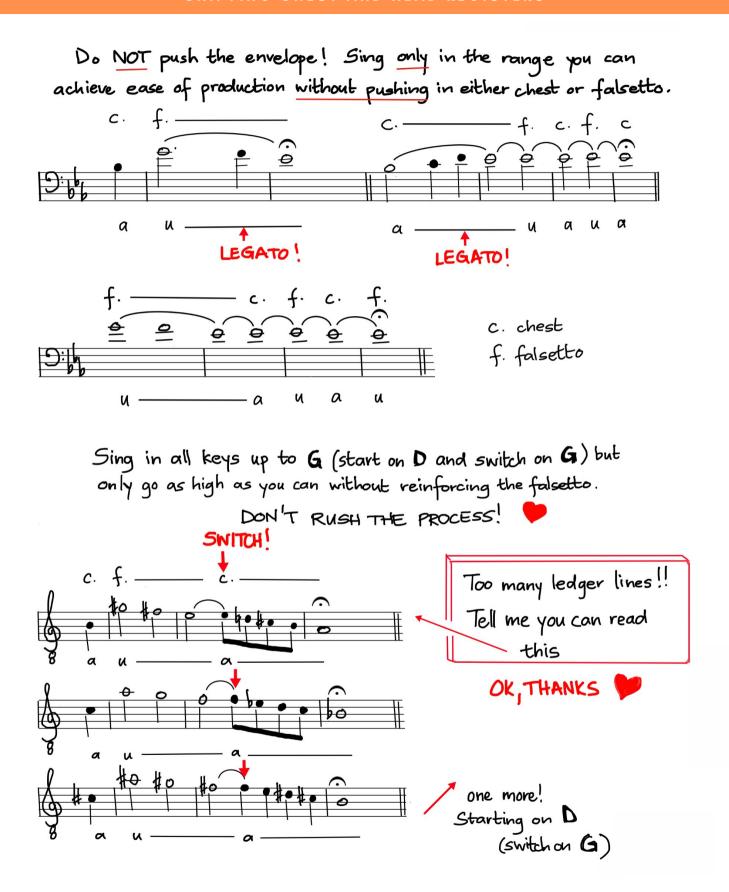
#### **COME SWITCH WITH ME - TENOR** UNIFYING CHEST AND HEAD REGISTERS

Do NOT push the envelope! Sing only in the range you can achieve ease of production without pushing in either chest or falsetto.



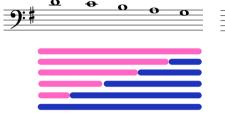
from The Vaccai Project

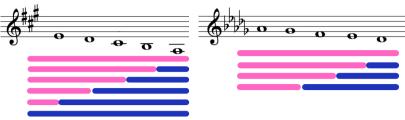
#### COME SWITCH WITH ME - BAR/BASS UNIFYING CHEST AND HEAD REGISTERS



from The Vaccai Project

#### **BCBC SWITCH EXERCISES** UNIFYING CHEST AND HEAD REGISTERS





#### **TENORS, BARITONES, BASSES**

Sing this exercise in all keys in which you can sing all five pitches in easy falsetto as well as chest-dominant 'full voice'

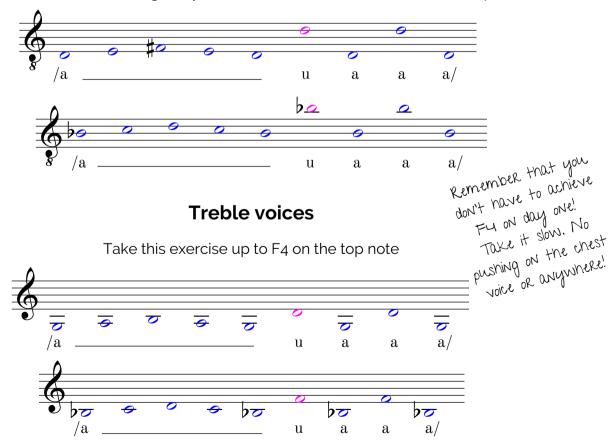
blue = chest voice pink = falsetto or head voice



#### SOPRANOS, MEZZO-SOPRANOS, CONTRALTOS

This exercise inspires you to practice transitioning on different pitches towards your eventual goal of achieving F4 equally easily in head or chest dominance. Start in a key where you can sing all five pitches in head voice and sing at least the lowest note in chest, progressing up to F major.

#### Non-treble voices



Take this exercise as high as your falsetto and full voice allow on the top note

from The Vaccai Project

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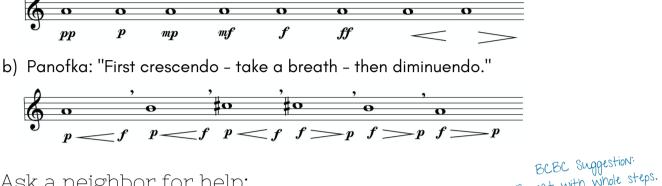
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#### BECOME THE MVP OF THE MDV PRACTICING DYNAMICS AS A RESULT OF REGISTRATION

#### 1. Do one thing at a time:

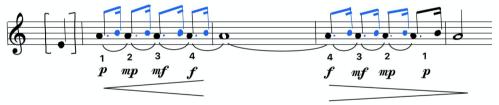
a) Garaudé: "Sing sustained tones in different dynamics - ONE dynamic at a time."



- 2. Ask a neighbor for help:
  - a) Bordèse: "Try changing the pitch at the apex of your crescendo?" 90 20

Repeat with Whole steps. improve messa di voce and legato in small intervals all at the same time!

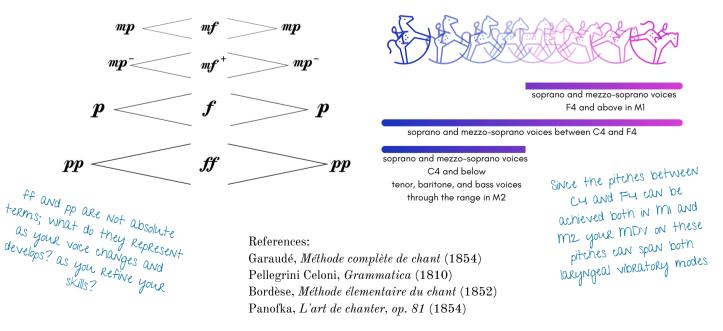
b) Celoni: "Let's get a longer breath going and sustain the apex of the crescendo."



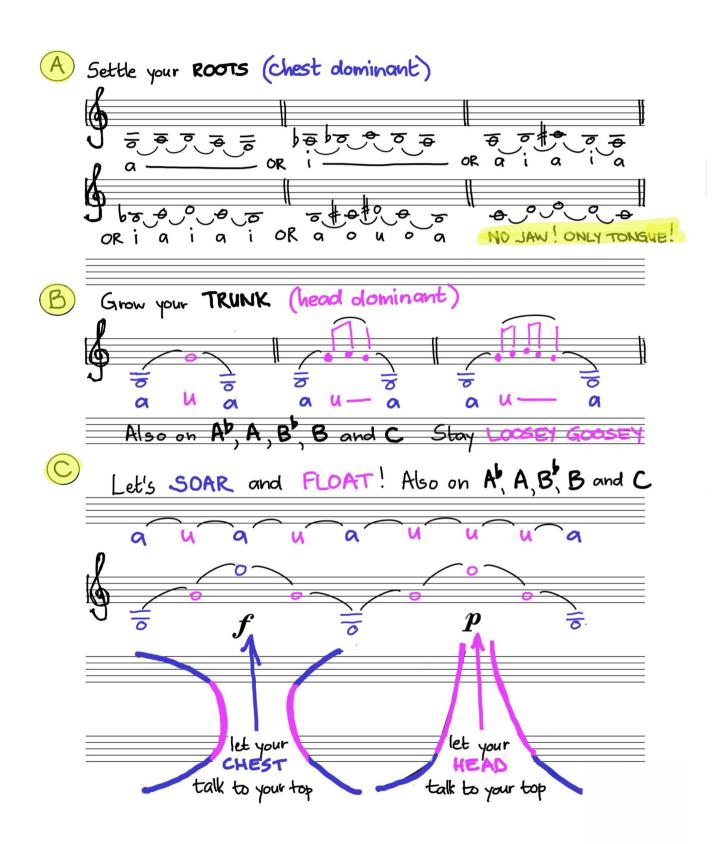
BCBC IN blue: Use upper Neighbor tones to help you define mid-level dynamics. Then leave out the blue Notes!

#### 3. The BCBC way:

Work outwards from your best mid-level (mezzo-piano) dynamic.

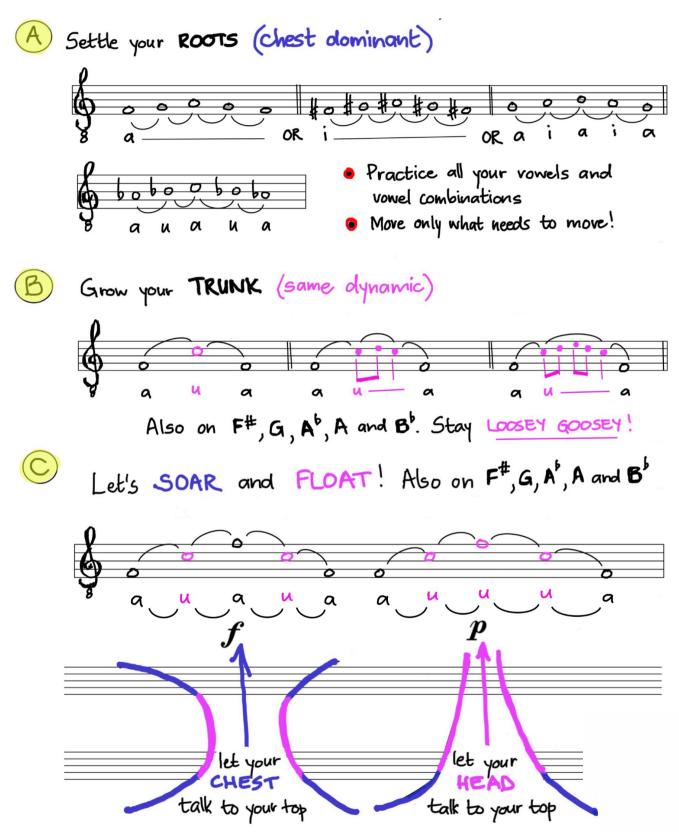


#### **SOAR AND FLOAT - TREBLE** FORTE VS PIANO DYNAMICS IN THE TOP OF THE VOICE



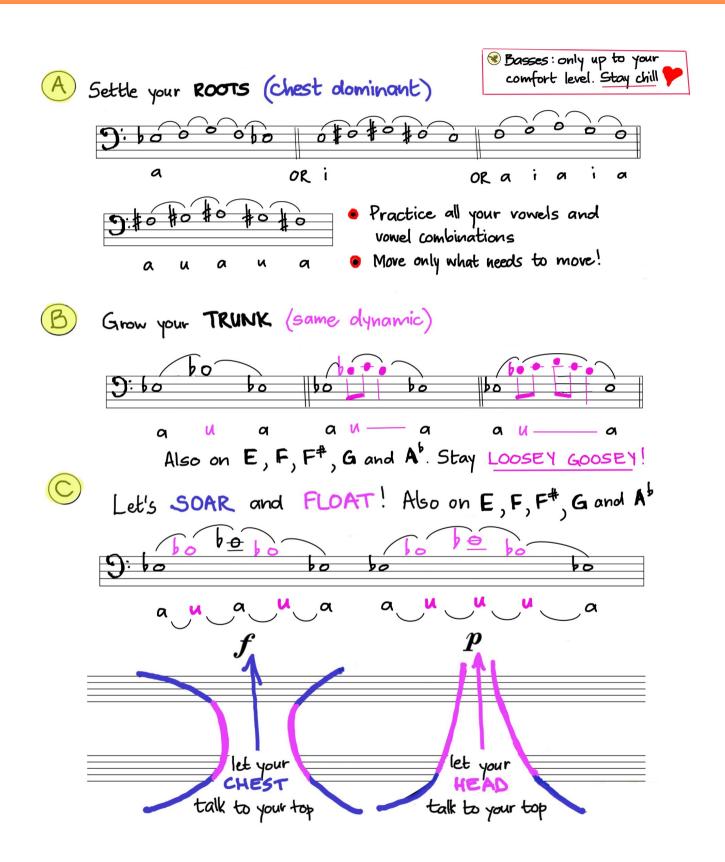
SOAR AND FLOAT - TENOR

FORTE VS PIANO DYNAMICS IN THE TOP OF THE VOICE



you are not meant to leave chest dominance in this exercise; rather, find dynamic possibilities within chest dominant sound in the passaggio and above

#### **SOAR AND FLOAT - BAR/BASS** FORTE VS PIANO DYNAMICS IN THE TOP OF THE VOICE



you are not meant to leave chest dominance in this exercise; rather, find dynamic possibilities within chest dominant sound in the passaggio and above

# AGILITY **SKI** SUA **SET** MER 93

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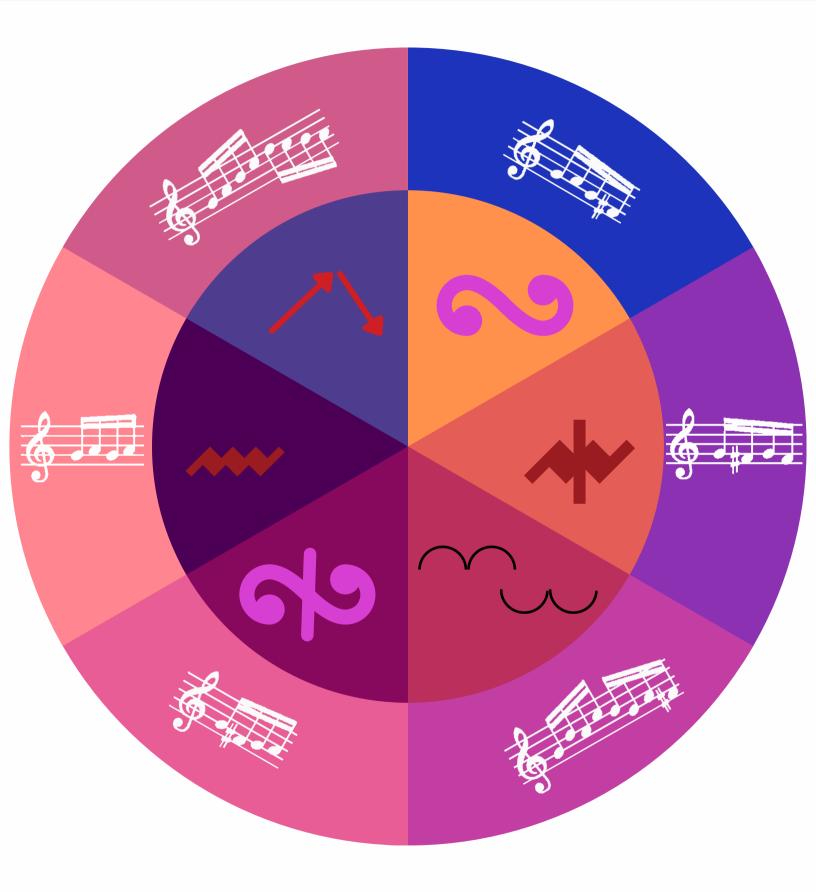
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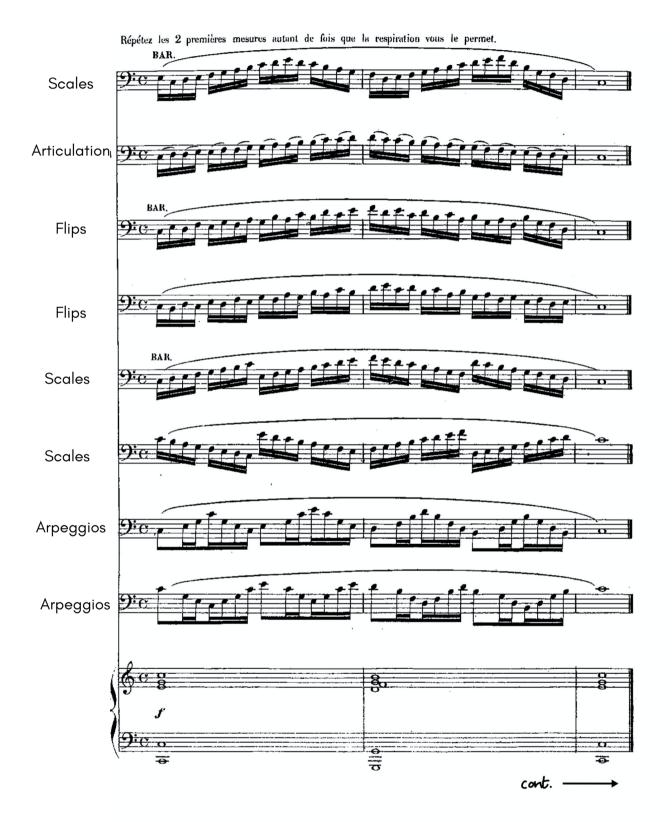
#### UNITS OF PITCHES MERRY-GO-ROUND





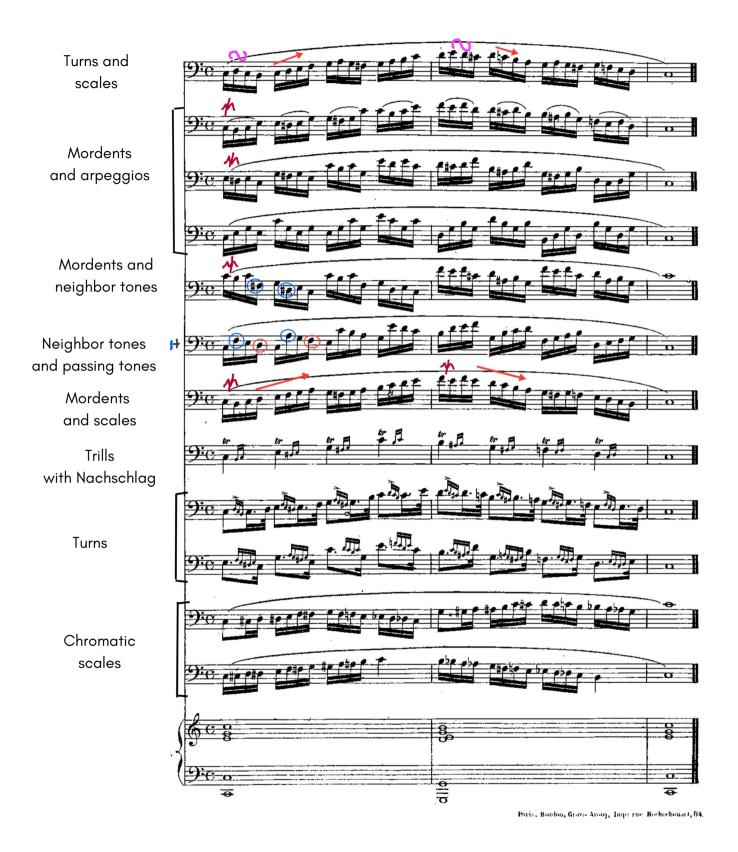
# HISTORICAL AGILITY ON I-V-I

Bordèse: Méthode élémentaire du channt





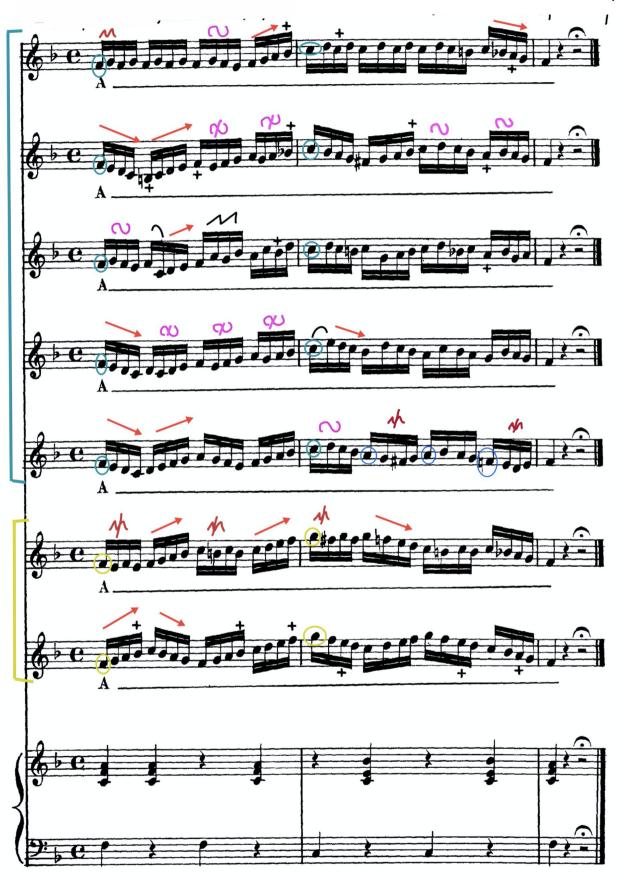
# HISTORICAL AGILITY ON I-V-I





# HISTORICAL AGILITY ON I-V-I

Viardot: Hour of Study





# AGILITY COMBINING UNITS OF PITCHES





# AGILITY COMBINING UNITS OF PITCHES



García: The Art of Singing

Crivelli: Instructions and Progressive Exercises







# AGILITY COMBINING UNITS OF PITCHES

List your arias with coloratura Name the patterns in your score





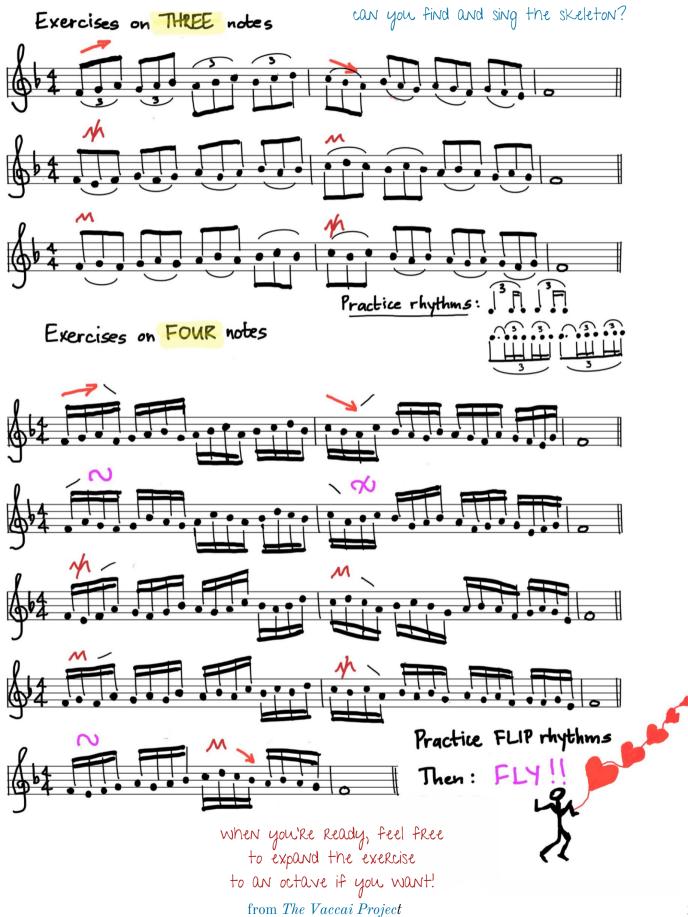
### COME FLIP WITH ME

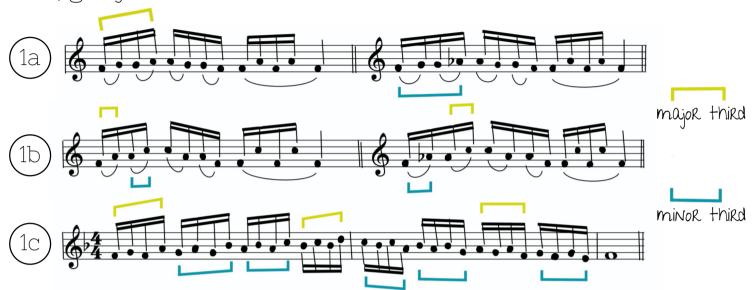


when you're ready, feel free to expand the exercise to an octave if you want!

from The Vaccai Project

### COME FLY WITH ME

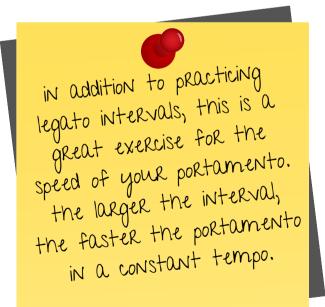




First, get your seconds and thirds solid.

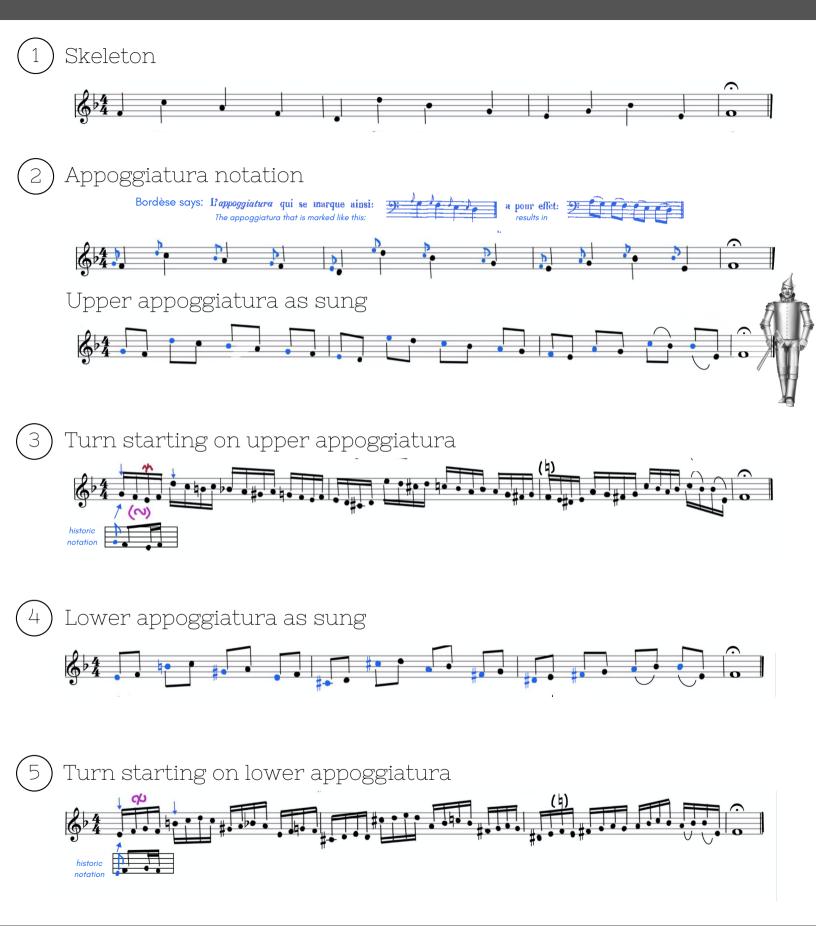
Now add the rest of the diatonic intervals.







# THE FOUR NOTE TURN IN COLORATURA





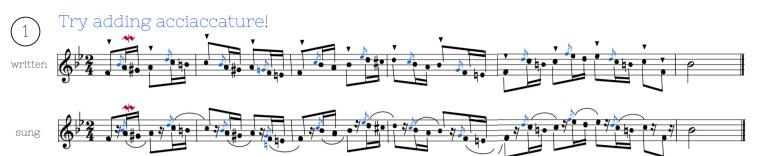
# **REGISTRATION, SCALES, AND ARPEGGIOS**





# NONLEGATO ARTICULATION

based on Garaudé



Then turns in 1b!





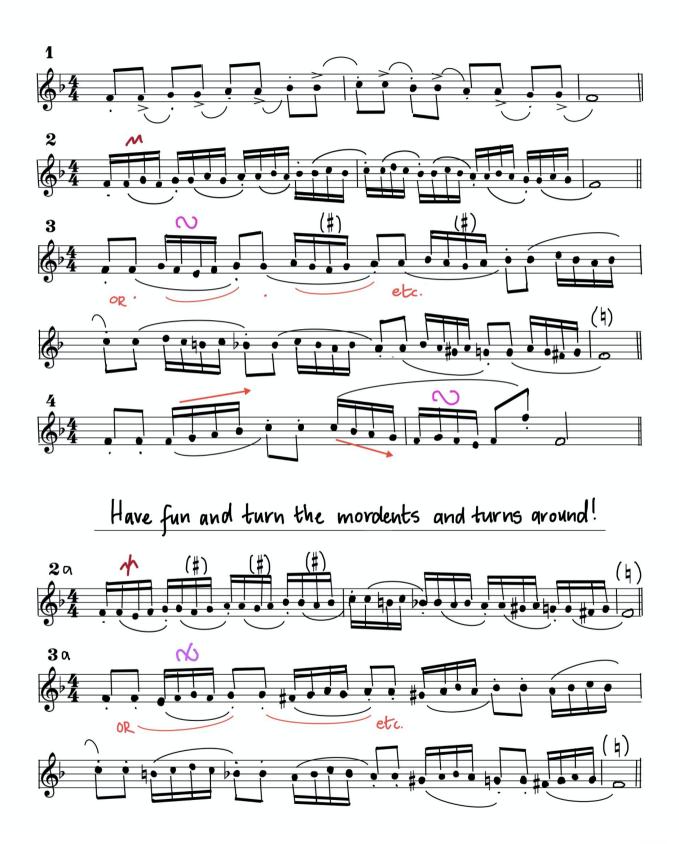








## UNITS OF PITCHES WITH ARTICULATION





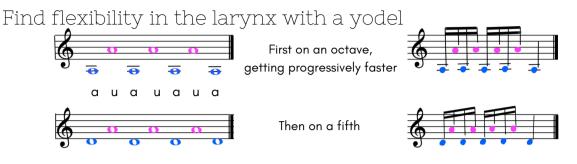




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# TRILLS

BCBC approaches trills as ornaments of one note and the result of motion in the larynx similar to the freedom found in a yodel and the acciaccatura.



### Practice dotted rhythms with upper notes



Os you practice the upper dotted sixteenths, start with equal volume to the main note. Next step is to sing them slightly softer

Turn your dotted rhythms into acciaccaturas



Remember the acciaccatura does Not occupy Rhythmic space of its own

Widen the interval of the acciaccatura



Get to trilling!



Le trille ne résulte pas de deux notes frappées l'une après l'autre et accélérées jusqu'à la plus grande vitesse, comme par exemple :



The trill does not result from two notes one after the other and accelerated to the highest speed, like for example:

Ce passage ne sera jamais qu'un trait d'agilité qui peut précéder ou suivre le trille; c'est une variété du trille que l'on nomme *Trillo molle* lorsqu'il est placé comme il suit :

This will only be an aspect of agility that can precede or follow the trill.

García, Complete Treatise on the Art of Singing (1847)

from The Vaccai Project

# VOCALISES SKILL SET SUMMER 97 searcesistration

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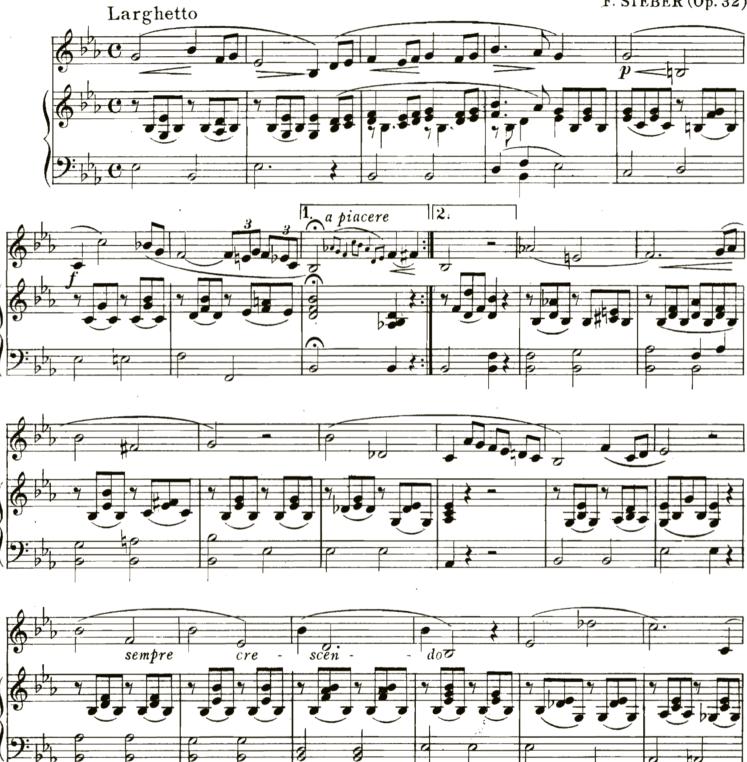
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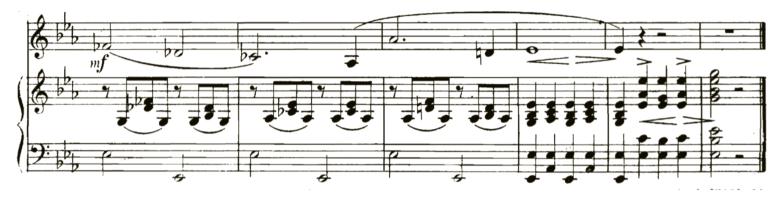


Ferdinand Sieber (1822-1895) No. 1 from 16 Vocalises, Op. 32

F. SIEBER (Op. 32)

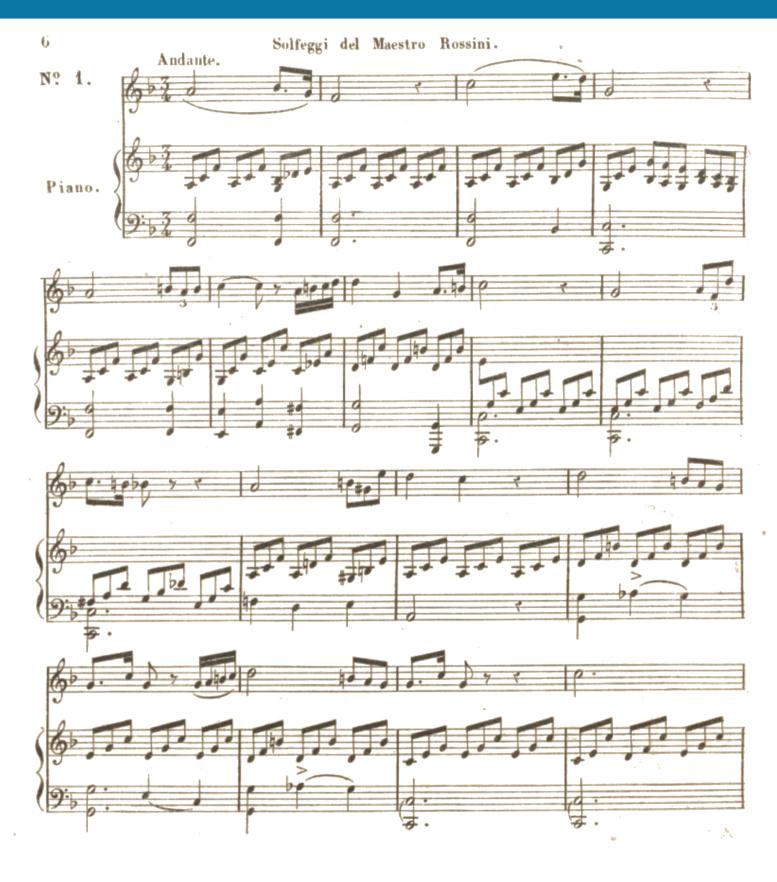






Make a list of your arias/songs to practice after singing this vocalise **BEL CANTO** BOOT CAMP

### Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868) Gorgheggi e solfeggi











Heinrich Panofka (1807-1887) 24 Vocalises, Op. 81









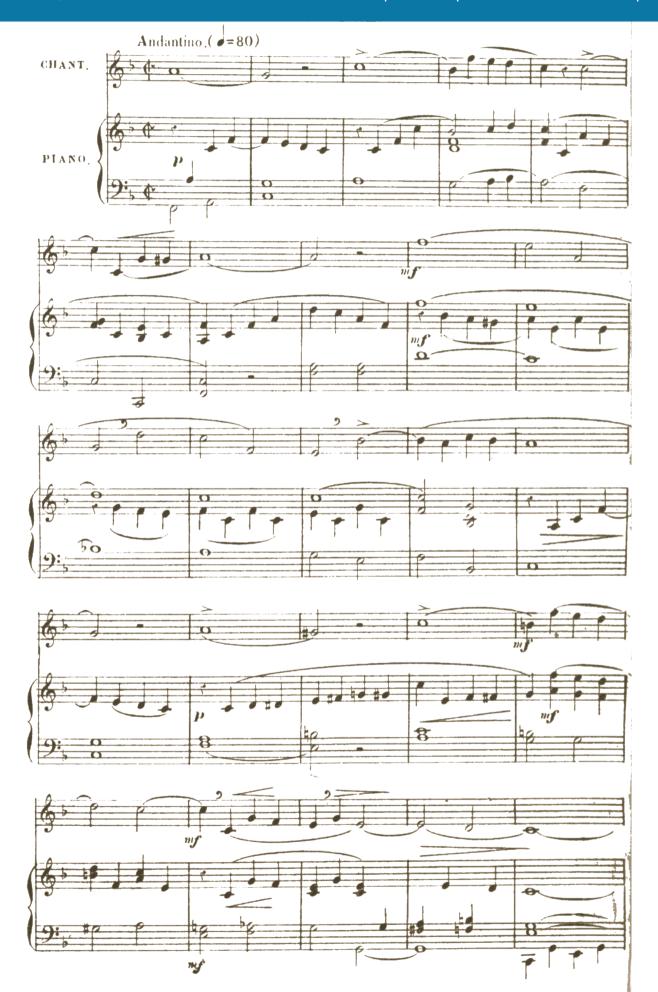






List your cantabile arias/songs. Spend time thinking about dynamics of each phrase: Sustained dynamic, one crescendo, one diminuendo, or one of each. No more!

### Anna Barthe-Banderali (1837 - 1923) Prière from 25 Exercices et 12 études vocalises pour soprano et mezzo-soprano























### Gaetano Nava (1802 - 1875) Elementary Solfeggi for the Medium of the Voice Op. 9 Book 2



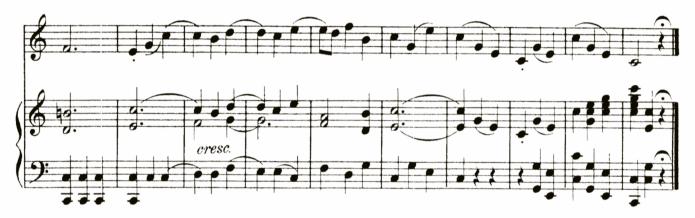












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CANTO BOOT CAMP

List your repertoire with slow scales and arpeggios Sing "registration, Scales and Crpeggios" (p 42) slowly to prepare for this vocalise.

Mathilde Marchesi (1821-1913) Mordents and Turns from Vocal Method Op. 31 (Part 2)









M. Marchesi – Vocal method, Op. 31(Part 2)

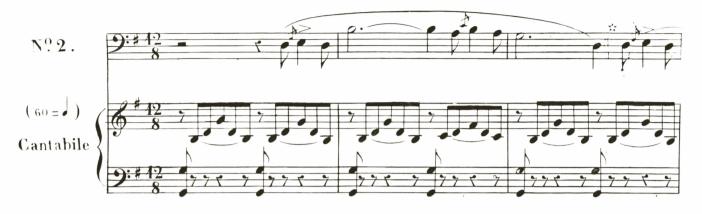








### Marco Bordogni (1789-1856) 12 Vocalizzi per baritono







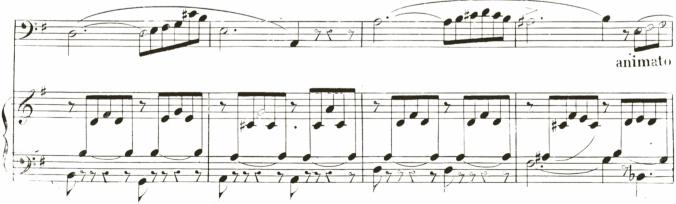




















<sup>62</sup> ÉTUDE SPÉCIALE POUR LA 2<sup>de</sup> AUGMENTÉE ET LES ACCORDS DE 7<sup>e</sup> DIMINUÉE.









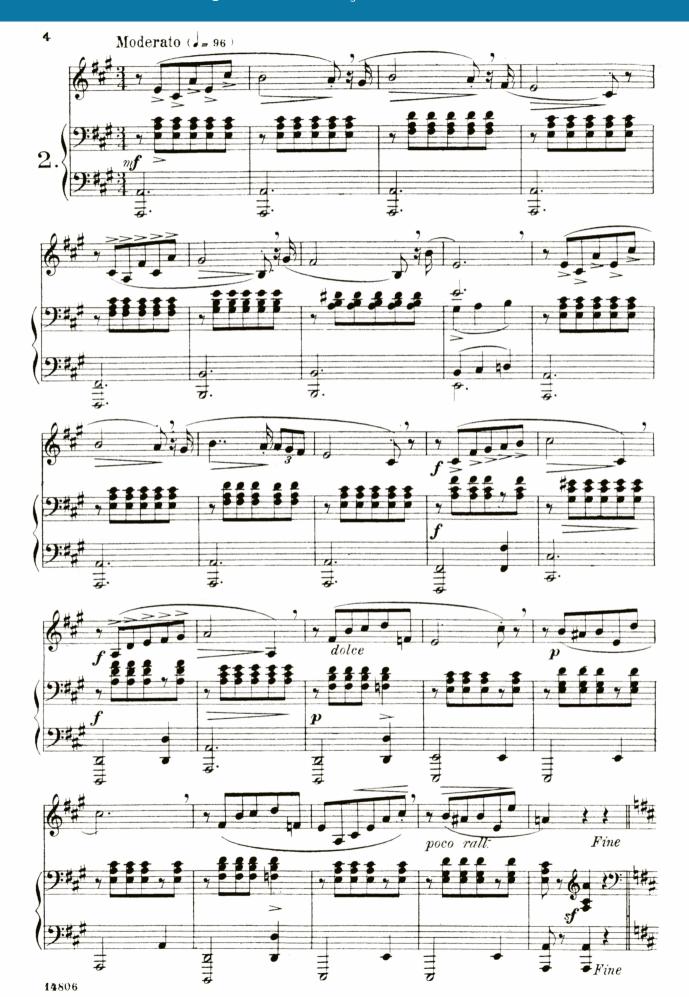








Giuseppe Concone (1801-1861) 25 Novelle Leçons de chant













### Laure Cinti-Damoreau (1801-1863) 1st Theme and Variations from Nouvelle méthode de chant









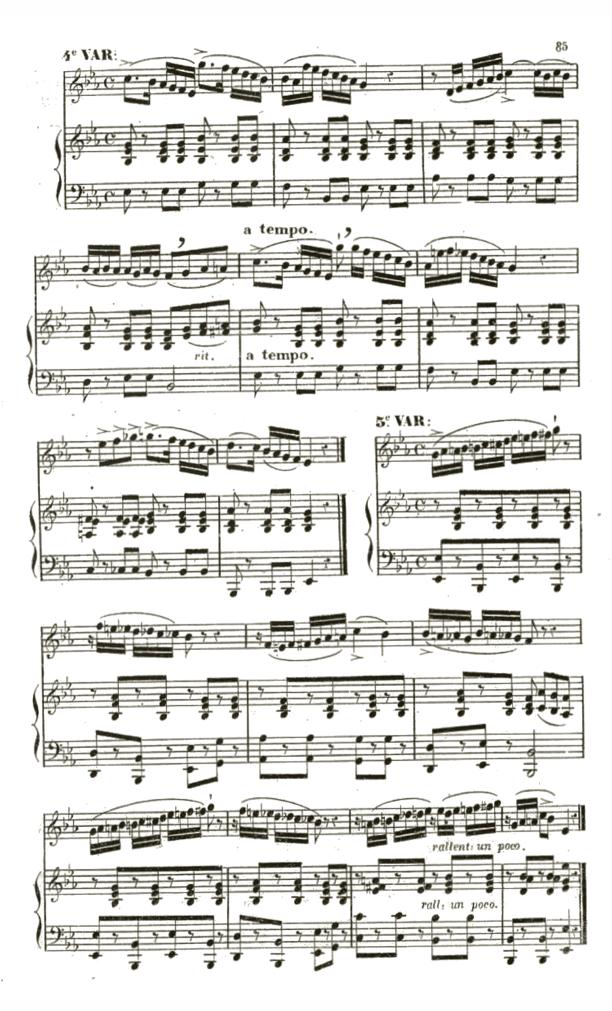




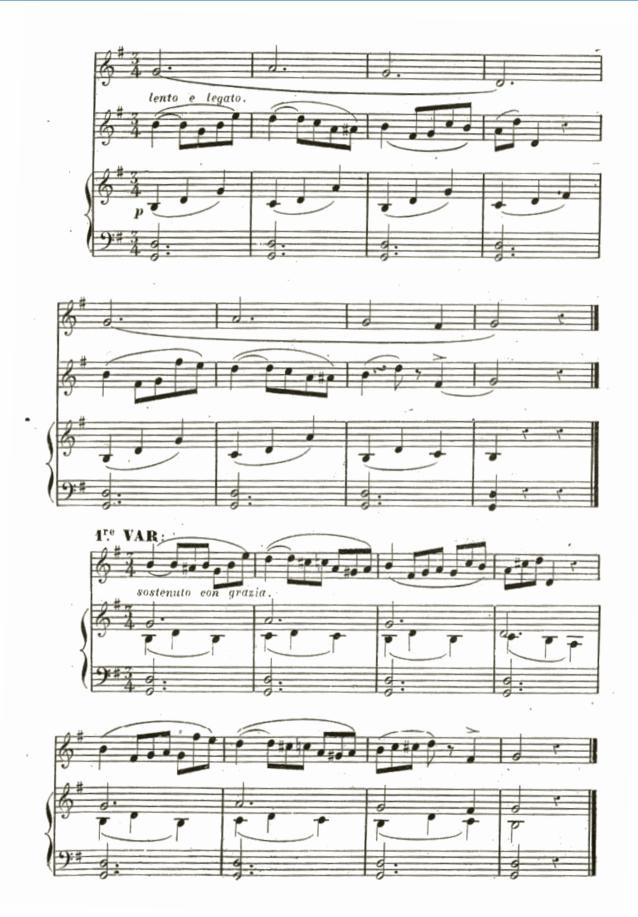








### Laure Cinti-Damoreau (1801-1863) 2nd Theme and Variations from Nouvelle méthode de chant











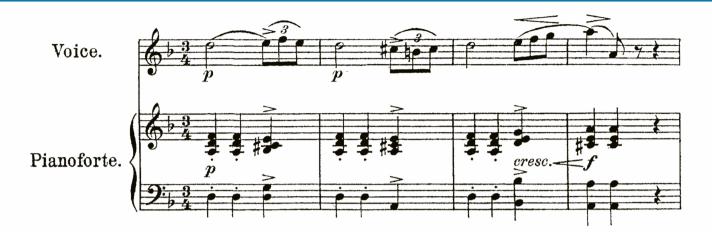


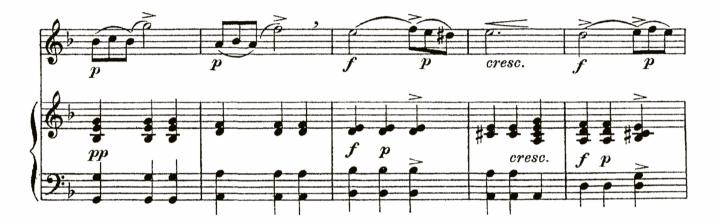






#### Giovanni-Battista Rubini (1794-1854) Triplets from 12 Lessons in Modern Singing for Soprano or Tenor.























































This vocalise is long and hard! Sing it in sections and keep track of which parts you have studied. Note the date you manage to sing through all of it!

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BEL CANTO BOOT CAMP

#### Alexis de Garaude (1779-1852) 25 Nouvelles Vocalises in Méthode complète de chant (Part 2)







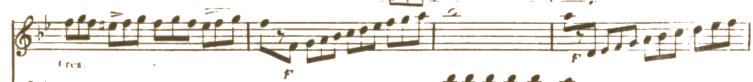




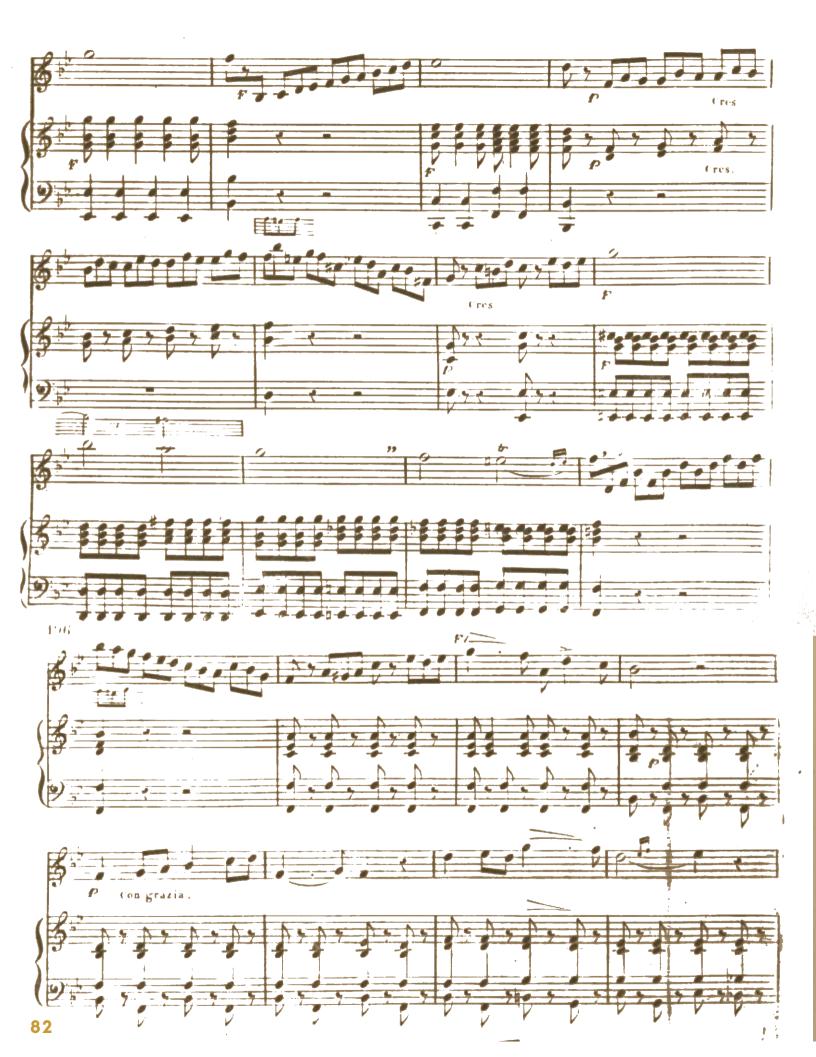
























































OK, this is really hard! Do just a little bit at a time and name the skills you are refining in each phrase as you practice. You've got this! BEL CANTO BOOT CAMP

#### OUR PHILOSOPHY

## THE BEL CANTO BOOT CAMP WAY

- Finding community in our daily personal practice, not only in rehearsal and performance
- Refine your technique Unlock your imagination
- Learning from the past to inform our future
- Welcoming all who seek to learn

**56 Empowered singers seek** truth: the history of their craft, the building blocks of their technique. They speak their mind with their own voice.

# OUR PHILOSOPHY MAKE SMART CHOICES

#### **SPECIFIC**

Break down the skill set and be specific about where you need to and want to grow.



#### **MEASURABLE**

Consider making regular recordings so you can enjoy hearing your progress. Consider joining an Intensive to enlist the help of colleagues and mentors.



#### ATTAINABLE

Everything that can be seen and understood is attainable. If you know where and how to grow you will realize your goals.



#### RELEVANT

Regularly discover how improved proficiency in the skill set unlocks your imagination in your repertoire.



#### **TIME-BOUND**

While the search for excellence is a lifelong endeavor, every step along the way can be savored and appreciated. Celebrate your small victories.

#### **NOTES:**



### PRE WORK SINGERS AND THE WORLD

Time for a little introspection on how your art intersects with the world.





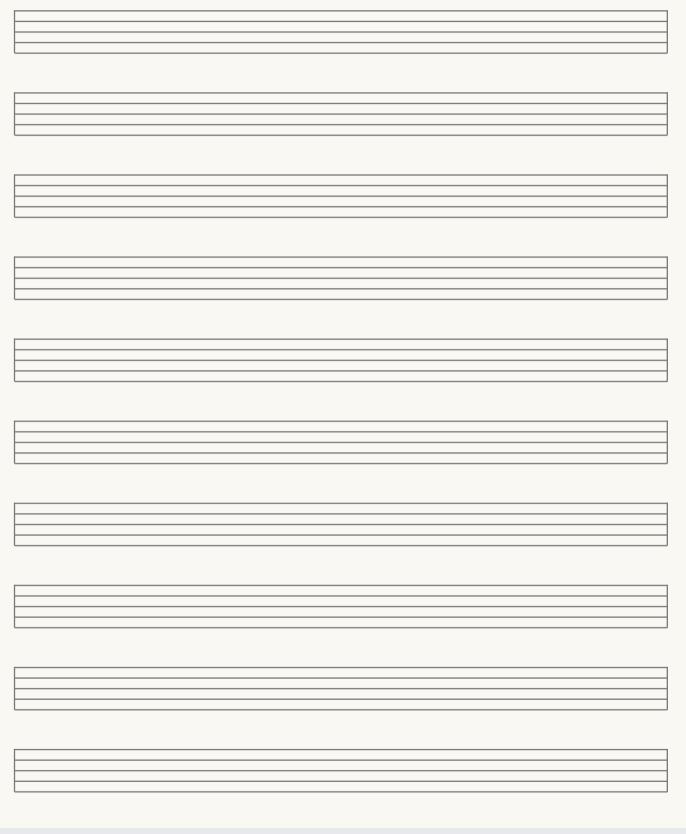
## **NOTES / BRAINSTORMING**



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### ORNAMENTATION / CADENZAS / EXERCISES





### ORNAMENTATION / CADENZAS / EXERCISES





### ORNAMENTATION / CADENZAS / EXERCISES

