

Singing Tips

for Spirit's Call Choir by Jennifer Vallance

Memorizing a Song

This tip involves achieving the impossible - **singing without your black binder!**

Now of course I'm not referring to a whole concert's worth, but if you start out with just one song that you practice without the book, by the time a concert comes around you may find you are using it less and less.



The goal is to get through just one song with confidence, using your binder less or not at all.

To start with, pick one of the songs that you find challenging, or would like to sing without the book. You choose.

Take the sheet music, and write the words down on a separate piece of paper. Write it down as though you are writing down a poem. This will help you to see the words separate from the music, and it also helps your brain to learn just one thing at a time. When I am learning a new piece, I find it difficult to learn both the words and the melody at the same time, so this is a trick I use. I sing the melody on "aaahhhhh's", but read the words separately.

After you have the words written out poem style, take it with you and when you have time, recite the words. Say them out loud, like you are reading a poem. Say the words in whatever manner you think the song should sound like, to you-not how Jeremy will expect you to sing it. That will come later.

After you work at just the words, and you can start saying the words without looking at your paper, you will be WAY ahead of the game. You will be able to

confidently sing this song, put your whole self into it, without being restricted to the book and stumbling through the words.

This is especially helpful with challenging songs in different languages, as the pronunciation can throw us off, especially when for some of us English is new too. It is a great tool to get crisp, clean words out, and it makes the whole song sound better to the audience. For example, ever listen to a song on the radio and you think - "what the heck are they saying??" Having the words memorized gives you the opportunity to "get into" the song, to learn how to pronounce the words, to get out of the book and follow the director, and to have the audience know EXACTLY what message we are trying to convey with our song.

And it all starts by memorizing the words.