

Vocal

awareness

WORKBOOK

ARTHUR
SAMUEL
JOSEPH

“Voice is the only artistic experience that is both finite and infinite at the same time. It is fallible and fragile, gone in an instant—unseen, only felt. It is remembered from the past, even a long moment ago. Anticipated, sensing its future even as its present is just occurring. It’s temporal, visceral, organic. Such a complex-simple and beguiling transcendent state.”



*Thank you to my loving family—Rebecca/Isaac/Eli.
My mother Betty, my original hero.
And thank you to my students, and God for my journey.*

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Using This Workbook

The Vocal Awareness Workbook has been created as a companion to the *Vocal Awareness* audio program. It contains written instructions for each exercise presented, as well as many important illustrations.

It also contains some material and instructions not found on the audio program.



Introduction to Vocal Awareness

Beginning the Journey

*“We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.”*

—T.S. Eliot

You are about to embark upon a remarkable journey. The goal of the journey is to discover and develop your natural voice, the voice which embodies and expresses your innermost self. Although you use your voice every day of your life, you may be amazed to find that your voice does not really express who you are and how you feel.

Our voice reveals us fully, carrying our moods, fears, tensions, and emotions. It represents us to the world and tells everyone everything about us—even when we are unaware of it. Our voice is fully who we are, as close as our own breath. It nurtures and envelops us in a secure and meaningful way, yet at the same time, seems to threaten and distance us from our true selves. Furthermore, our voice may sometimes feel alien, separate, and “outside” of us. For example, when we are called upon to speak in public, our voice can feel “disembodied” and our breath short. We may stammer in front of others, and have trouble thinking and articulating our thoughts.

The voice is a unique kind of mirror for it reveals ourselves to us in enlightening, and sometimes disturbing ways, yet always with honesty. The mirror of the voice reveals who we think we are—the persona we are attempting to project. Our voice can also reveal the reflection of who we truly are. One could say if the

eyes are the windows of the soul, then the voice is that window opened up, and the sound of the soul coming out. Everyone who works with me comes to our first meeting with one voice, and in the process discovers a more authentic and comprehensive voice of which they were not even aware.

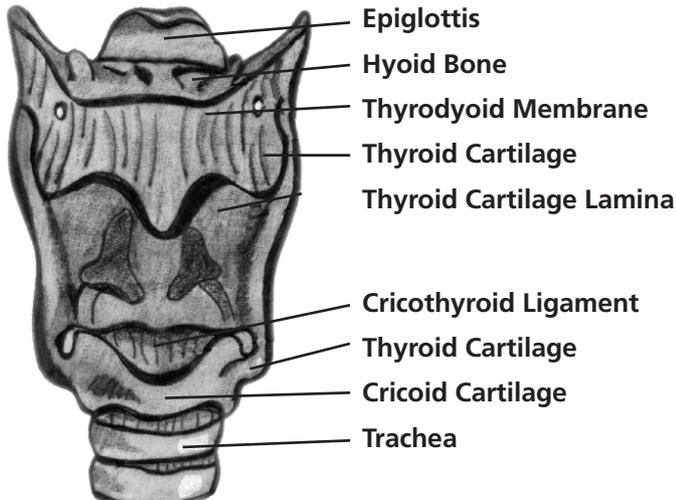
As you begin to take this journey, you will discover the true magic and mystery of the voice. You will gain a deeper understanding of the power of your voice in your life and how it can help you live more fully and successfully. You will also find that the benefits you receive along the way are more profound and far reaching than you could ever imagine.

Exploring your voice will also challenge and confront you, unearthing hidden feelings and awakening a fresh and enlivening sense of vulnerability and freedom. Freedom to become you! To awaken to and discover new choices and make a commitment to yourself.

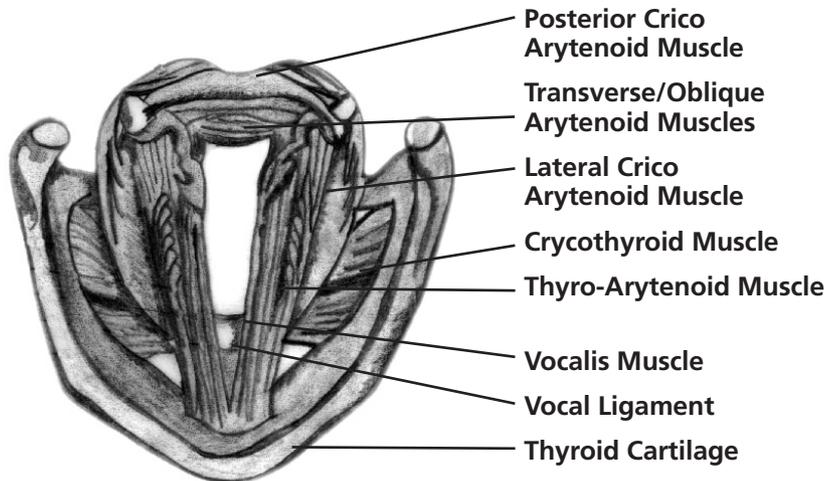
Working with the voice will allow us the opportunity to go back to our origin, to an embryonic experience within ourselves—the initial and primordial awareness of breathing, sound, and self-identity. By going to the origin, we can begin to understand how we have become disconnected from our authentic voice and learn to reconnect through sound.



The Larynx & the Vocal Folds



Anterior Aspect



Intrinsic Muscles
of the Larynx



The Primeval Power of Sound

Modern physics tells us that sound is vibration, and that vibration is the basis of everything in the universe. Ancient Hindu scriptures say the same thing: “God originally manifests as sound.” Sound is the essence, the very core of all nature, the common thread that connects all animate and inanimate life forms, and interconnects with everything in the universe at the most infinitesimal levels. Our early ancestors discovered the power of sound vibration to help in experiencing a sense of attunement with the universe around them.

The use of sound to express and experience this deep sense of connection has continued unbroken down through the ages. Peoples of all cultures instinctively have used ritualistic song, dance, prayers, and chants to connect with the center in themselves, and to bring that center into resonance with the outer world. Songs and chants have always been an essential part of the religious and healing ceremonies of human cultures. From the mesmerizing songs and chants of the shamans of Siberia, Africa, the Americas, and Australia, to the chanting rabbis, priests, and monks of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, sound has been our primary means of resonating with the sacred inside and around ourselves. Many images come to mind: the shaman intoning a chant to bring on a mystical trance which recaptures that original experience of unity; the solitary yogi repeating the sacred syllable “Om” in a Himalayan cave; a Navajo medicine man dancing and singing in a healing ceremony; Tibetan monks chanting in unison in a remote monastery; and Roman Catholic priests singing Gregorian chants.

What is this magic instrument that all these mystics and religious teachers have learned to use so perfectly? In today’s society, a less sacred example might be the current craze and interest in rap music which communicates

its powerful message in an incredible litany of intense rhythmic sounds and rapid speak/sing toning. What is it we are all searching for as we explore various expressions of sound? We can gain a whole new perspective on these and other questions if we examine our actual vocal mechanism.

Our Magical Voice Box: The Larynx

The primary function of the larynx is not speaking, it is breathing. For example, when the larynx is surgically removed for medical reasons, doctors open a hole in the trachea, because humans cannot breathe without a larynx.

The larynx is a remarkable instrument. The vocal muscles are the only muscles in the body which are not fixed at two points. These muscles lie horizontally front to back, and are housed within the “Adam’s apple.” They are also the only muscles which function through air pressure. When we make sound, our vocal muscles shorten or lengthen and expand or contract. The velocity of the air pressure moving through the vocal folds creates the pitch.

The events of daily life often create inner conflict which does not allow us to properly express our feelings. This may in turn create tension in the tongue and jaw, stifled air flow, and other conditions which prevent the vocal mechanism from functioning in an optimal manner. If you restrain your true feelings vocally, speaking in a “polite” manner when frightened or angry, it can lead to unwanted tension in the body and abuse of the voice. You can also abuse your voice by not supporting your soundmaking with an adequate, fluid amount of air-flow, such as when you scream or shout and end up being hoarse. This causes the vocal folds to spasm, and the ligaments and membranes around them to constrict.



Experiencing Sounds/The Basic Principles

Exercise Two

The Breath

1. Stand, or sit comfortably in a chair, with your back straight. Be relaxed. If possible, have a tape recorder available to record your work and your comments, and a mirror to look into.
2. Take a deep breath, as if it's the "top of the mornin'," and it's great to be alive. As you inhale, notice how it feels. Then exhale and relax.
3. Now take a different kind of breath. This time, allow your body, mind, and spirit to respond to these thoughts:

Allow a silent breath. Begin. Do you begin to notice any difference in the feeling?

This time allow a silent and loving breath. Begin. How is this different?

This time allow a silent, loving, down-through-your-body breath. Begin.

4. This time consciously, and with great awareness enjoy yourself as you allow a silent, loving, down-through-your-body breath. Begin. Notice the change in the way this feels.

This is the beginning of your Vocal Awareness journey. These subtle differences can lead to profound change.

Your Vocal Awareness Notebook

You will want to note your progress and changes on your Vocal Awareness journey. Begin keeping a Vocal Awareness notebook, in which you can jot down your impressions. Note what feels most natural, most full, most liberating, and most comfortable. This will help you to learn how to repeat the desired experiences at will.



Yawn-Sigh Soundmaking

Exercise Three

Now you will begin to add sound to your exhalation. In the Vocal Awareness program, this type of soundmaking is called the “Yawn-Sigh,” since it resembles yawning and sighing at the same time. You can explore sustaining many different kinds of sounds (your mouth opened, closed, humming, moaning, wailing, or sighing. Make use of all the vowels, etc.). To begin with, use just one vowel sound per breath. You can combine the sounds in many ways, and express any emotions you desire. Observe the process of sound-making at all times.

This part is best done in conjunction with the audio program.

1. Try making a yawn-sigh for each of the basic vowel sounds, allowing any emotional “color” you want.

a e i o u

2. Now try making yawn-sigh sounds. Notice carefully how these feel.

Haa ... Aaah ...

3. Now turn off the audio program. Practice breathing and making yawn-sighs on your own.

NOTE: Don't hear these expressions simply as “sound.” Rather, feel them as emotional expression. Release yourself through your breath. Take your time.

CAREFUL!

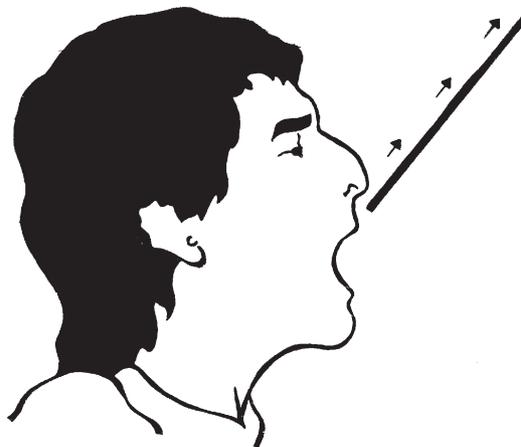
If you feel any little irritations (tickles, scratches, etc.), it is probably your voice telling you that you are doing something wrong, such as: your tongue is too tight, your jaw is too tight, your breath is too fast, your neck and shoulders are too tight. All of these things can injure your voice by inhibiting its natural freedom.



The Vocal Awareness Checklist/Rituals

Vocal Awareness requires patience, attention to detail, and a form (or structure). The Vocal Awareness Checklist is a very specific “map” for fulfilling these requirements. This checklist is a list of commands which you will give yourself as you prepare for and do the work. They are “rituals” which will aid you in your Vocal Awareness journey. There is a total of 12 items on the Checklist. The first seven are presented here. The remaining five will be introduced in subsequent sessions, as they become necessary. For now, concentrate on these seven principles, and go through applying them before each exercise.

1. **Thank You to My Source** – Give thanks to God, your parents, your own beginnings, or to whom or whatever you feel most grateful. See yourself as surrendering to this source, and to the work. Knowing that you are serving something greater than your own ego will give you courage and strength when things “get tough.” It allows you to become the biggest and best you possible.
2. **Love and Let Go** – Relax and allow this phrase to be the initial impulse which begins the process of creating sound. This phrase will hold a personal meaning for you. “Love” refers to experiencing a feeling of connectedness with all people and beings. “Love” also means giving yourself permission to be the very best you can be. “Let go” means to release anything which distracts you from your purpose. Become open, clear, and free to do the work.
3. **Enjoy the Work** – Voice work is meant to give pleasure. It is a sensual experience, like a cat stretching in the sun. By “Enjoying the Work” you are recognizing that the process of Vocal Awareness is bringing you into fuller and deeper contact with yourself, and that this process is fun. Make the most of it. Your joy will shine through your voice.
4. **See the Arc** – “See the Arc” means to apply a visual image to your production of sound. Imagine your voice coming up and out of your mouth (like a geyser of water), soaring out into space at a 45-degree angle.



The Arc



5. **Take My Time** – Never hurry. Voice work is about process, not results. If you rush through your work, you cheat yourself and delay your own progress. Be in the moment. Let your muscles get their full workout. Let yourself breathe fully and properly. Allow your mind the opportunity to make thorough observations. Go at your own, natural pace.
6. **Be Myself** – Allow yourself to be in the moment and experience completely who you are. Listen; feel; experience your passions, desires, fears, and habits. Experience all the nuances of these expressions as you begin truly focusing on yourself. Allow your own fullness to come through on every level.
7. **The Nasal Edge** – The nasal edge is a focal point. It is the “leaping-off” point for your voice as it begins to soar into the Arc. Concentrate on the edge of your top lip (see diagram) as the center from which all sound leaves your body. The Nasal Edge is the “sweet spot” of your voice.



The Nasal Edge



The Vocal Awareness Workout

Exercise Four

Breathing

Vocal Awareness begins with an awareness of our breathing—the source of all sound. We use the breath to center ourselves, and to reach alignment and balance. The ideal breathing technique—the silent, loving, down-through-your-body breath, was briefly introduced on Session 2. Now, you are going to incorporate this technique into your breathing exercise.

Stand or sit, whichever is most comfortable. Be aware of your posture (head erect, shoulders down and relaxed, chest held high and comfortable, spine and upper torso straight). Allow your mouth to fall open in a relaxed and easy way. Release the tongue forward, allowing it to rest comfortably against your bottom teeth.

Remember Your Vocal Awareness Checklist/Rituals!

1. Now, allow a silent, loving, down-through-your-body breath (enjoying it as you do so) to flow in through your relaxed and open mouth. Take six to eight counts on the inhalation. Continue breathing in this manner for some time. Notice how it feels. Feel the breath moving naturally down and around through your body. Always breathe through your mouth. When you allow yourself to breathe in this manner, you are calming the body at the same moment you are energizing it. The breath helps to bring us into balance. Once you begin to feel comfortable with this exercise, you can begin to visualize the Nasal Edge, and begin to send the breath up through the Arc.

2. For optimum effectiveness, you will want to repeat this breathing exercise for a period of one to two minutes. Even at the end of this short period, you will have reaped important benefits from the exercise. If performed fully and consciously, you will feel centered, energized, and free of unnecessary tension.
3. Jot down some of your feelings and impressions in your Vocal Awareness notebook.

Throughout this first exercise, monitor yourself for tension. Be aware of your body and pay special attention to the neck and shoulders, tongue and jaw, and fingers and hands. Consciously release any tension you feel. Let go. If you notice any particular tension in your tongue area, The Tongue Release (Exercise 5, on the next page) is a simple and effective technique to help you to release it.

THE VOCAL AWARENESS CHECKLIST/RITUALS

1. Thank You to My Source
2. Love and Let Go
3. Enjoy the Work
4. See the Arc
5. Take My Time
6. Be Myself
7. The Nasal Edge



The Tongue Release

Exercise Five

One of the most common trouble areas is the tongue. Not only does it often seem to have a mind of its own, but it is also the strongest muscle, per diameter, in the body. Sometimes it seems as if the tongue has grown enormously in size and practically needs a straight-jacket to control it. It grabs, pulls, and dances uncontrollably. Well, our job is to teach the tongue what to do. Here is a simple technique for doing this.

Remember Your Vocal Awareness Checklist/Rituals!

1. Stand or sit in front of a mirror so you can observe where your tongue normally lies. Become sensitized to what it is like to neutralize the tongue. Allow your tongue to let go and release, lying forward in your mouth, resting comfortably against your lower teeth, doing absolutely nothing. Relax the tongue completely.

THE VOCAL AWARENESS CHECKLIST/RITUALS

1. Thank You to My Source
2. Love and Let Go
3. Enjoy the Work
4. See the Arc
5. Take My Time
6. Be Myself
7. The Nasal Edge

2. Saliva will gather in your mouth. It may feel like the “tongue of an imbecile.”
3. Notice how you can hold your breathing in focus, while also focusing on the tongue release. Feel the slow, even rhythm of your breathing. Remember the principles of the checklist. How does this feel? Record your impressions in your Vocal Awareness notebook.



The Tongue Release



The Jaw Release

Exercise Six

The most complex joint in the body is the *temporal mandibular joint*—your jaw. This is also frequently a place where people store a lot of tension. In moments of stress, we are apt to clench or tighten the jaw, and even while sleeping, grind the teeth. I am going to teach you an exercise which will help you deal with and overcome tension in this area.

1. Form a “V” with your hand by spreading your thumb away from your forefinger. (Note illustration.) Rest your hand against your chin and jaw, “hanging on the ledge of your chin,” with your thumb on one side of your jaw, and your fingers against the other. Your chin will be in the center of the “V”. Experiment with different hand positions until you find exactly the right way to do it.
2. Using a gentle pressure, ease your jaw down until your mouth is open and released, as comfortably as it wants to. Ultimately, your mouth should be extended about the width of your three fingers. Relax ... (See illustration at right.)
3. Your tongue will rest easily, lightly touching your lower teeth. Check your mirror to see if you are doing the technique correctly. Keep your head level. You do not want it to drop or raise as your jaw is released.
4. What you want to achieve is a complete lack of tension in your jaw. You want to let go of any feeling of holding on to your jaw. Your jaw should be loose and hang freely. Keep your hand gently on your jaw as a reminder while you practice the breathing exercise or any of the following exercises. Remember that an open, relaxed, easy jaw will lead to open, released, easy communication. With practice, this exercise will become quite simple for you to achieve

a feeling of complete release in the jaw area, and with that release will come a new freedom in your sound. Since tension depletes your energy, you will also have more energy. So as you work to release your tensions, this is one more benefit you can look forward to.

When you are comfortable with this exercise, you may want to practice breathing, releasing the tongue and jaw, and applying the principles of the checklist all at once. Spend a few minutes doing this.

THE VOCAL AWARENESS CHECKLIST/RITUALS

1. Thank You to My Source
2. Love and Let Go
3. Enjoy the Work
4. See the Arc
5. Take My Time
6. Be Myself
7. The Nasal Edge

And we will add two new principles to the list:

8. Allow a Full, Silent, Loving, Down-Through-My-Body Breath
9. Release My Tongue, Jaw, Neck, and Shoulder Tension



The Jaw Release



The Yawn-Sigh

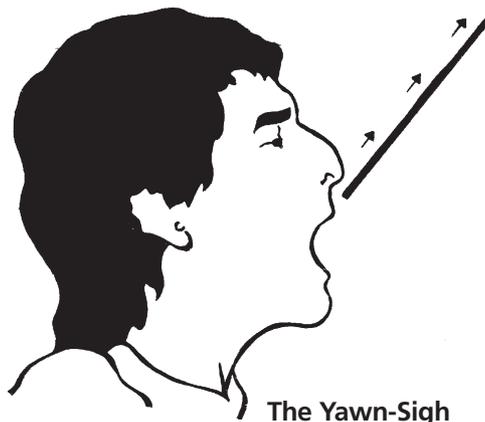
Exercise Seven

The Yawn-Sigh is a simple and excellent exercise for vocal development. It will integrate your inner feeling with your outer expression in a very simple and practical way. With the Yawn-Sigh exercise, you will begin to make sound. It will allow the sound to emerge from your body with the breath, letting you explore what you can do with your exhalation. With this exercise, you are beginning to discover your natural sound, your true voice.

1. Stand or sit, whichever is most comfortable. Visualize the emerging sound of the Yawn-Sigh by using the principle of the Arc. Allow a Full, Silent, Loving, Down-Through-My-Body Breath. Feel the energy of your breath welling within you.
2. Allow this energy to move up through your body like a geyser of water, propelling your voice from just behind your top teeth, through the Nasal Edge, and into the Arc. (See illustration at right.) Use the sound “Hah” (as in “hat”), or “Hay” with a somewhat nasal intensity. Always begin with an aspirated “H” sound (and remember Principle 10, The Breath Precedes the Tone).
3. Be aware of keeping your tongue and jaw loose as you do so. Always pull the lower abdominal muscles up and through (Principle 11, see illustration on the next page).
4. Sustain each Yawn-Sigh for a period of six to eight seconds. Remember to follow through in three ways: mechanically (let your jaw continue to release); singing or speaking “through” the sound; and with balance. The energy will release out through your voice, as emotion is channeled down through your body.
5. Begin with just the basic vowels. Once these become comfortable, experiment by mixing them together, and with other sounds. Try Yawn-Sighs with ascending and descending pitch. Tape yourself. Use the mirror and your Vocal Awareness notebook. Most of all, keep it simple and have fun.

THE VOCAL AWARENESS CHECKLIST/RITUALS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Thank You to My Source | 9. Release My Tongue, Jaw, Neck, and Shoulder Tension |
| 2. Love and Let Go | |
| 3. Enjoy the Work | <i>And now we will add two new principles:</i> |
| 4. See the Arc | 10. The Breath Precedes the Tone |
| 5. Take My Time | 11. Support the Sound by Pulling My Lower Abdominal Muscles Up and Through the Sound |
| 6. Be Myself | |
| 7. The Nasal Edge | |
| 8. Allow a Full, Silent, Loving, Down-Through-My-Body Breath | |

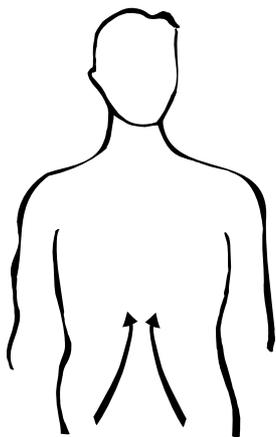


Propel the voice through the Nasal Edge and into the Arc.

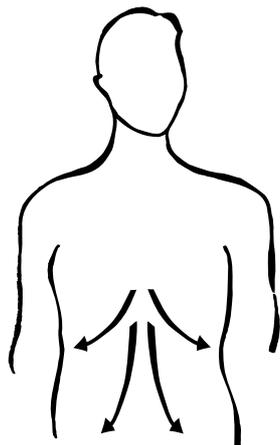


More Complex Yawn-Sighs

Exercise Eight



Pulling the abdominal muscles up and through



The Abdominal Muscles

Notice the direct and immediate effect which doing the Yawn-Sigh has on your voice? Now you will learn a more complex and elaborate way of doing Yawn-Sighs.

Now, try doing a Yawn-Sigh variation using the sound “Hung” (sustaining an NG sound in the word “Hung”). “Hung” encourages sound to more intensely resonate and vibrate in the front of the face (the *mask*—tip of the top teeth to the bridge of the nose), in the nose, and behind the cheekbones. Listen to this sound on Session 3 and then do it yourself. This sound is referred to as the “open hum,” and helps you to focus on the Nasal Edge.

Remember Your Vocal Awareness Checklist/Rituals!

By now, some of the steps of this list should be feeling more natural and automatic.

Because the Yawn-Sighs are extremely useful in eliminating tension, they make us aware of how we can sound when the voice is free and open. Over the years, I have found the Yawn-Sighs have always helped students to quickly sense the possibilities in their voices.

Remember to think of this work as exploration. Vocal Awareness is the map for your personal journey. The techniques and exercises of Vocal Awareness are your tools, and their value is determined solely by what you are able to accomplish with them. The ease with which you employ your tools will be largely determined by your attitude. You will want to free yourself of any possible emotional blocks which may keep you from doing the work wholeheartedly and with full commitment. Vocal Awareness provides an opportunity for you to discover your own vocal instrument and, ultimately, your own self.

THE VOCAL AWARENESS CHECKLIST/RITUALS

1. Thank You to My Source
2. Love and Let Go
3. Enjoy the Work
4. See the Arc
5. Take My Time
6. Be Myself
7. The Nasal Edge
8. Allow a Full, Silent, Loving, Down-Through-My-Body Breath
9. Release My Tongue, Jaw, Neck, and Shoulder Tension
10. The Breath Precedes the Tone
11. Support the Sound by Pulling My Lower Abdominal Muscles Up and Through the Sound



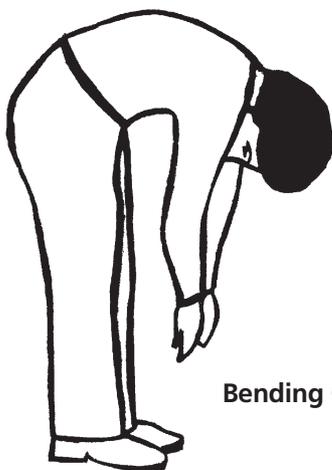
Yawn-Sigh Bending from the Waist

Exercise Nine

This is a variation of the Yawn-Sigh exercise which will help put you in touch with various tensions in your upper body which interfere with good vocal production.

1. Begin in a standing position. Bend over at the waist. Notice as you do so that there may be a tendency to hold tension in the back of your neck. Let your head simply fall forward. While in this “hanging limply” position, allow yourself to relax, and then—very slowly—stand back up. Imagine you are slowly unwinding, like a cat. Practice this until you are comfortable with this.
2. Now, bending over again, let go with your upper body as completely as possible. Let your arms drop toward the floor. Release all tension in your body. Gently roll your head around. Now do a Yawn-Sigh in this position.
3. When you are done, come up very slowly and rest.
4. When you are ready for another, come into the bending-over posture again. This time do the Yawn-Sigh making use of the “open hum” sound you learned on page 13.
5. Finally, do a Yawn-Sigh while you are rising back to a standing position, taking a full six to eight counts to do so. By the time you are standing fully erect, the sound should be completed. Remember to keep your body relaxed and your breath intact while doing this.

Notice how your body now stands straighter and taller, in a more comfortable alignment with your hips. Everything falls more naturally into place. Be aware of changes in your internal energy. Doing Yawn-Sighs in this manner will allow your posture to correct itself, and will give you an entirely new awareness of the production of sound in your head and body.



Bending Over

THE VOCAL AWARENESS CHECKLIST/RITUALS

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Thank You to My Source | 8. Allow a Full, Silent, Loving, Down-Through-My-Body Breath |
| 2. Love and Let Go | 9. Release My Tongue, Jaw, Neck, and Shoulder Tension |
| 3. Enjoy the Work | 10. The Breath Precedes the Tone |
| 4. See the Arc | 11. Support the Sound by Pulling My Lower Abdominal Muscles Up and Through the Sound |
| 5. Take My Time | |
| 6. Be Myself | |
| 7. The Nasal Edge | |



Yawn-Sigh with Jaw Release

Exercise Ten

Now combine the Jaw Release technique (Exercise 6, page 11) with the Yawn-Sigh. This will relieve any jaw problems you may be experiencing.

1. As you learned before, make a “V” with your hand and place it on your chin and jaw. Apply a gentle, downward pressure to ease your jaw open. Your mouth should be open to about the width of three fingers. Allow the tongue to rest against the bottom teeth. Keep your head level. You do not want it to drop or raise as your jaw is released. Check your mirror to see that you are doing the technique correctly.
2. Now, do a Yawn-Sigh while allowing the jaw to be eased open in this manner. Use the sound “Haw.”



Two Fingers Under the Tongue

Two Fingers Under the Tongue

Exercise Eleven

This technique liberates tension in the tongue and mouth, and contributes meaningfully to a fuller, richer voice. Of course, placing your fingers in your open mouth sometimes gets a little “juicy,” but the benefits far outweigh any inconvenience.

Remember Your Vocal Awareness Checklist/Rituals!

1. Place two fingers under your tongue, allowing the tongue to release forward on top of the fingers. Use the thumb to press up under the chin at the spot where you can feel the base of the tongue muscle. (See illustration.)
2. First, practice simply tightening and releasing the tongue in this position, so that you become familiar with the sensation. Your tongue should feel soft and relaxed. Tension will cause it to bunch up and feel hard.
3. Now, with the fingers in place, try another Yawn-Sigh. Use the “Haw” sound. The sound should be extremely nasal.
4. This exercise allows you to raise your soft palate without even thinking about it. Thus, you have created more space in your vocal tract. The highly-nasal tone makes your larynx work harder. The tendency in this exercise is to spread the mouth, or get very tight. Do not allow this to happen. Try doing this exercise with a number of different sounds.
5. Notice the benefits of this exercise. Almost immediately you will notice a richer, warmer tone in the voice. With practice, you will gain a high degree of control over your tongue. Record your impressions in your Vocal Awareness notebook.

THE VOCAL AWARENESS CHECKLIST/RITUALS

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Thank You to My Source | 8. Allow a Full, Silent, Loving,
Down-Through-My-Body Breath |
| 2. Love and Let Go | 9. Release My Tongue, Jaw, Neck,
and Shoulder Tension |
| 3. Enjoy the Work | 10. The Breath Precedes the Tone |
| 4. See the Arc | 11. Support the Sound by Pulling My
Lower Abdominal Muscles Up and
Through the Sound |
| 5. Take My Time | |
| 6. Be Myself | |
| 7. The Nasal Edge | |



The Tongue Pull

Exercise Twelve

This exercise requires a handkerchief or washcloth to use while holding your tongue. Do not use Kleenex or paper toweling, as they will stick to your tongue. The Tongue Pull will allow you to experience an unobstructed, and very free flow of sound.

1. Watch yourself in the mirror as you gently take hold of your tongue with the handkerchief. Gently (!) pull your tongue down and out of your mouth. See that your tongue is well out of the mouth and lying parallel with your chin. It should be relaxed and flat, not bunched up or tight. Check to see that your head remains level.
2. You may feel at first that your tongue wants to fight you. But you are in charge here. Simply keep pulling it gently downward.
3. Now, do a Yawn-Sigh while holding the tongue, using the sound “Hey.” Notice the remarkable sensation of stretching you feel. Record your impressions in your notebook.

THE VOCAL AWARENESS CHECKLIST/RITUALS

1. Thank You to My Source
2. Love and Let Go
3. Enjoy the Work
4. See the Arc
5. Take My Time
6. Be Myself
7. The Nasal Edge
8. Allow a Full, Silent, Loving, Down-Through-My-Body Breath
9. Release My Tongue, Jaw, Neck, and Shoulder Tension
10. The Breath Precedes the Tone
11. Support the Sound by Pulling My Lower Abdominal Muscles Up and Through the Sound



The Tongue Pull



The Pencil Technique

Exercise Thirteen

You may try this technique once you feel confident that you will not tense up while performing it. To do this exercise, you will need to get a pencil that you can use to gently bite down on. “Gently” is the important word here. This is a very advanced form of the Yawn-Sigh.

Remember Your Vocal Awareness Checklist/Rituals!

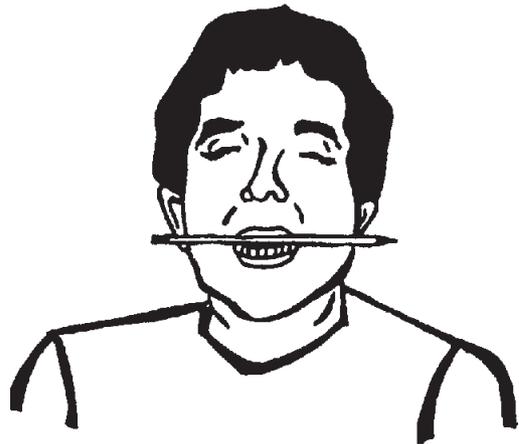
By now, you should almost have it memorized.

1. Now, place the pencil in your mouth, gently holding it just in front of your eye teeth. Don't bite down. Merely hold it with your teeth.
2. It is important in this exercise to “direct” the sound of your voice very specifically. You should focus on projecting the sound over the top of the pencil (not under it or into it). The pitch of your voice here is not important. Simply keep your voice loose and focused.
3. Now, using the sound “Hah,” do a Yawn-Sigh with the pencil in your mouth.
4. Next, use the sound “Haw.”
5. Now, perform a number of these Yawn-Sighs while taping yourself, and record your impressions in your Vocal Awareness notebook. Try also simply speaking with the pencil in your mouth. How does this feel?

Remember, all of the Yawn-Sigh exercises you have learned are to be done with full focus and awareness. They are never to be done mechanically, or absent-mindedly. Express and experience them with enjoyment and deep listening. Yawn-Sighs are a free expression of yourself. Your vocal muscles will grow very quickly using this technique, and you will find yourself with a whole new range of self-expression.

THE VOCAL AWARENESS CHECKLIST/RITUALS

1. Thank You to My Source
2. Love and Let Go
3. Enjoy the Work
4. See the Arc
5. Take My Time
6. Be Myself
7. The Nasal Edge
8. Allow a Full, Silent, Loving, Down-Through-My-Body Breath
9. Release My Tongue, Jaw, Neck, and Shoulder Tension
10. The Breath Precedes the Tone
11. Support the Sound by Pulling My Lower Abdominal Muscles Up and Through the Sound



The Pencil Technique



Putting It All Together

The Complete Vocal Awareness Checklist

Now that you have learned all the basic exercises, it is time to explore some of the higher dimensions of Vocal Awareness. This begins with the last principle of the Vocal Awareness Checklist/Rituals: Pay Attention. Think of paying attention as “deeper listening.” This is a very important step, which incorporates all the other principles of the Checklist. The “rituals” of the

Checklist are there to help you to focus better on your work. Pay Attention can be thought of as a summary of all the other principles. For example, when you truly Pay Attention to what you are doing, you will Love and Let Go, See the Arc, remember the Nasal Edge, and all the other principles will be remembered automatically.

THE COMPLETE VOCAL AWARENESS CHECKLIST/RITUALS

1. Thank You to My Source
2. Love & Let Go
3. Enjoy the Work
4. See the Arc
5. Take My Time
6. Be Myself
7. The Nasal Edge
8. Allow a Full, Silent,
Loving, Down-Through-
My-Body Breath
9. Release My Tongue,
Jaw, Neck, & Shoulder
Tension
10. The Breath Precedes
the Tone
11. Support the Sound by
Pulling My Lower
Abdominal Muscles Up
& Through the Sound
12. Pay Attention



Reading a Poem

Exercise Fourteen

Now you will get a chance to practically apply the techniques you have learned in developing your speaking voice. Listen to Session Four, and the reading of the first stanza of the poem “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost. Mark down the words and syllables which are given particular emphasis. You will see that these words form an “outline” of the first stanza. This is very important in helping listeners understand your

message. Listeners typically only glean 8% of their understanding from the actual words you speak, and about 38% from the way you speak it. The rest of their understanding comes through body language. Thus, speaking the poem with particular emphasis on certain parts will be of great help to your listeners in understanding the poem. Now read the poem yourself, taking particular care to emphasize meaning.

The Road Not Taken

by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth:

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear:
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

THE VOCAL AWARENESS CHECKLIST/RITUALS

1. Thank You to My Source
2. Love and Let Go
3. Enjoy the Work
4. See the Arc
5. Take My Time
6. Be Myself
7. The Nasal Edge
8. Allow a Full, Silent, Loving, Down-Through-My-Body Breath
9. Release My Tongue, Jaw, Neck, and Shoulder Tension
10. The Breath Precedes the Tone
11. Support the Sound by Pulling My Lower Abdominal Muscles Up and Through the Sound
12. Pay Attention



Exploring Your Vocal Persona

Exercise Fifteen

Much of your character is perceived by others through your vocal style. What kind of person you are, how trustworthy you are, and many other factors are transmitted by your voice. It is important that you look carefully at this, and make sure that you are making the proper impression of who you are with your voice. If you need more space use additional sheets.

1. First, in the space below, write out how you think you are perceived by others when they hear your voice.

2. Next, write out how you would like to be perceived. "Who" would you like your voice to be?

3. Now, in the spaces provided, draw a picture of both characters. Use any style you like (It doesn't have to look "real.") Simply attempt to show the "character" of your vocal style (on the top), and the character you would prefer (on the bottom). Try not to let your fears or judgments get in the way. The drawing can be abstract or representational, and you may use a larger piece of paper. Be creative.

The "character" of your vocal style

The "character" you would prefer



Yawn-Sighs with Words

Exercise Sixteen

This exercise makes use of the Yawn-Sigh, Two Fingers Under the Tongue, and Pencil techniques you learned earlier.

Remember Your Vocal Awareness Checklist/Rituals!

1. Speak the following sentences normally: “When I speak, I need to be aware of projecting my voice in a very specific arc. It doesn’t matter whether it’s loud or whether it’s soft, the energy remains constant, even though the volume may change.”
2. Now, speak the same sentences as a series of short Yawn-Sighs, done with the Two Fingers Under the Tongue Technique you learned in Exercise 11 (page 15).

WHE(H)N I (AH-EE) SPEA(H)K,
I(AH-EE) NEED(H) TO BE(H)
A(H)WA(H)RE OF PRO(H) JE(H) CTING
MY VO(H)I(H)CE I(H)N A(H)
VE(H)RY(E) SPE(H) CI(H) FI(H) C(K)
A(H)RC(K) I(H)T DOESN’T (DAHZ’NT)
MA(H) TTE(H)R WHE(H) THE(H) R
I(H)TS LOU(H)D O(H)R
WHE(H) THE(H) R I(H)TS SOF(H)T
THE(THAH) E(H) NE(H) RGY
RE(H) MAI(H) NS CO(H) NSTA(H) NT
E(H) VE(H) N THOU(H) GH
THE(THAH) VO(H) LU(H) ME(H)
MA(H)Y CHA(H) NGE(H)

3. Next, read the same sentence as a series of short Yawn-Sighs, using the Pencil Technique you learned in Exercise 13 (page 17). Remember, the volume of this exercise is not important. Your focus should be on projecting the sounds over the top of the pencil. This can be done with any material with which you wish to enhance your performance. This can include speeches, poetry, even songs.
4. Try this same technique using the Robert Frost poem written on page 19.
5. Try it using the lyrics to the song The Rose (page 23).

THE VOCAL AWARENESS CHECKLIST/RITUALS

1. Thank You to My Source
2. Love and Let Go
3. Enjoy the Work
4. See the Arc
5. Take My Time
6. Be Myself
7. The Nasal Edge
8. Allow a Full, Silent, Loving, Down-Through-My-Body Breath
9. Release My Tongue, Jaw, Neck, and Shoulder Tension
10. The Breath Precedes the Tone
11. Support the Sound by Pulling My Lower Abdominal Muscles Up and Through the Sound
12. Pay Attention



The Three Aspects

The Three Aspects is a method which will greatly enhance your ability to learn Vocal Awareness.

It will incorporate all the parts of Vocal Awareness (the exercises, The Checklist/Rituals, etc.) into a single, manageable framework.

Imagine that you have a one-hour block of time in which to practice your Vocal Awareness. This concept can also be abbreviated or extended into any block of time. It is merely the format, balance, and focus to which you want to adhere.

The First Aspect

... will take 10 to 15 minutes. Ninety percent of your focus will be on technique, and 10% on aesthetics. This is where you will warm up your voice. This stage could be called “How I do what I do.”

The Second Aspect

... will take 20 to 25 minutes. Sixty-five percent of your focus will be on technique, and 35% on aesthetics. In this stage, you will apply the exercises to the actual material you are working with. This Second Aspect could be described as “How I do what I do, as it is applied to what I am doing.” This is a transitional time between warm-up and actual performance.

The Third Aspect

... is the remainder of your hypothetical one-hour block of time; about 20 to 30 minutes. Your focus here should be 10% on technique, and 90% on aesthetics. This is the actual time to perform.

Always go through all the Three Aspects while practicing for an actual performance. Have all your Vocal Awareness materials right at hand: your workbook, tape recorder, Checklist/Rituals, mirror, pencil, notebook, and anything else you use in your Vocal Awareness training.

THE VOCAL AWARENESS CHECKLIST/RITUALS

1. Thank You to My Source
2. Love & Let Go
3. Enjoy the Work
4. See the Arc
5. Take My Time
6. Be Myself
7. The Nasal Edge
8. Allow a Full, Silent, Loving, Down-Through-My-Body Breath
9. Release My Tongue, Jaw, Neck, & Shoulder Tension
10. The Breath Precedes the Tone
11. Support the Sound by Pulling My Lower Abdominal Muscles Up & Through the Sound
12. Pay Attention



Exercises with Music & Singing

Key of D

THE ROSE

WORDS & MUSIC BY AMANDA McBROOM

Slowly

SOME SAY LOVE HEART IT IS A OF
RIV- ER THAT DROWNS THE TEN- DER REED SOME SAY
BREAK- ING THAT NEVER LEARNS TO DANCE IT'S THE
LOVE DREAM IT IS A RAZ- CR THAT LEAVES YOUR SOUL TO
A-FRAID OF WAK- ING THAT NEVER TAKES THE
BLEED CHANCE SOME SAY LOVE IT IS A HUN- GER AN
IT'S THE ONE WHO WON'T BE TAK- EN WHO
END- CAN- LESS ACH- ING NEED I SAY LOVE IT IS A
NOT SEEM TO GIVE AND THE SOUL A- FRAID OF
FLOW- ER AND THAT YOU NEV- ER ITS ON- LY SEED.



2. D

IT'S THE LIVE WHEN THE

D A G A

NIGHT HAS BEEN TOO LONE- LY AND THE ROAD HAS BEEN TOO

D D A

LONG AND YOU THINK THAT LOVE IS ON- LY FOR THE

G A D F#m

LUCK-Y AND THE STRONG JUST RE- MEM- BER IN THE

Bm Em7 D/F# G Asus4 A

WIN- TER FAR BE- NEATH THE BIT- TER SNOWS LIESTHE

D A G

SEED THAT WITH THE SUN'S LOVE IN THE SPRING BE- COMES THE

D

ROSE



KUM-BA-YAH

D G D G D G D

D G D

KUM- BA- YAH, MY LORD KUM- BA- YAH

F#m G A

KUM- BA- YAH, MY LORD KUM- BA- YAH

G/B D G D

KUM- BA- YAH MY LORD KUM-BA- YAH

G D/A A7 D

OH, LORD KUM- BA- YAH

G D G D

SOME-ONE'S CRY- IN' LORD

G D F#m

KUM- BA- YAH SOME-ONE'S CRY- IN' LORD,



G A G/B D

KUM- BA- YAH SOME- ONES CRY- IN' LORD,

G D G D/A

KUM-BA- YAH OH, LORD,

A7 D G D

KUM- BA- YAH

G D G D D

SOME-ONES

D G D

SING- PRAY- IN' LORD, IN' KUM- BA- YAH SOME-ONES

F#m G A D

SING- PRAY- IN' LORD, IN' KUM-BA- YAH SOME-ONES

D G D G6

SING- PRAY- IN' LORD, IN' KUM-BA- YAH OH



THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

Words and Music by Woody Guthrie

This land is your land this land is
Walk - ing that rib - bon of

my land From Cal - i - for - nia to the New York is - land from the red - wood
high - way I saw a - bove me that end - less sky - way: I say be -

For - est to the Gulf Stream wa - ters This land was made for you and me.
low me that gold - en val - ley; This land was made for you and

As I went me.

Chords: A, E, B, B⁷, E, A, E B/D⁹, C⁹ mi, B, B⁷, E 1., 2. E



YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

D^b A^{b7} D^b A^{b7} D^b

You are my sun - shine

D^{b7} G^b D^b

my on - ly sun - shine You make me hap - py when skies are gray

G^b E^bmi⁷ D^b D^b/C B^bmi⁷E^{b7}/B^b D^b/A^b

You'll nev - er know dear how much I love you Please don't take my

A^{b7} 1. D^b A^{b7} 2. D^b

sun - shine a - way. You are my way.



Am7 B+ Em

SOME-TIMES I FEEL LIKE I'M AL- MOST HOME
SOME-TIMES I FEEL LIKE A FEATH- ER IN THE AIR

Em7 Cmaj7

SOME-TIMES I FEEL LIKE I'M AL- MOST HOME A
SOME-TIMES I FEEL LIKE A FEATH- ER IN THE AIR

Cmaj7 Em/G B7 Em

LONG WAY FROM HOME A

Cmaj7

LONG WAY FROM HOME A

Cmaj7 Em/G B7 Em

LONG WAY FROM HOME A

Cmaj7 Em/G B E (no chord)

LONG WAY FROM HOME



Key of Gb

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

BY KATHERINE LEE BATES & SAMUEL A. WARD

Slowly

G^b **G^b**

O BEAU- TI FUL FOR

D^b7 **G^b**

SPA- CIOUS SKIES FOR AM- BER WAVES OF GRAIN FOR

Gdim7 **D^b/A^b** **D^b/A^b** **A^b9**

PUR- FLE MOUN- TAIN MA- JES-TIES A- BOVE THE FRUIT- ED

D^b7 **A^bm/E^b** **D^b7/F** **G^b** **B^bm7** **A^bm7** **D^b7**

PLAIN A- MER- I- CA! A - MER- I CA! GOD

A^bm **D^b7** **G^b** **A^bm7** **G^b7/B^b** **C** **Cdim7**

SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE AND CROWN THY GOOD WITH

G^b/D^b **A^b7** **D^b7** **G^b** **D7**

BROTH- ER- HOOD FROM SEA TO SHIN- ING SEA O



G D7 Am7 D9

BEAU- TI- FUL FOR PIL- GRIM FEET WHOSE STERN IM- PAS- SION'D

G G#dim7 D7/A D7 G G#dim7 D/A

STRESS A THOR- OUGH FARE FOR FREE- DOM BEAT A -

A9 D7 G Bm7

CROSS THE WIL- DER- NESS A - MER- I- CA! A -

Am7 D9 Am7 C/D D7 G Am7 G7/B

MER- I- CA! GOD MEND THINE EV- RY FLAW, CON-

C C#dim7 G/D A7sus4 A7 D7sus4 D7

FIRM THY SOUL IN SELF CON-TROL, THY LI- BER- TY IN

G

LAW.



G^b **Fm7**

KNOW WHERE YOU JUST HAVE TO

B^bm7 **G^b6** **G^b/A^b**

WISH TO MAKE IT SO _____ LET'S GO UP ON THE__

D^b *D.S. al Coda*

ROOF___ AT

D^b **B^bm7**

ROOF UP ON THE ROOF UP ON THE

D^b **B^bm7**

ROOF *repeat and improvise !!*

D^b9 **C^b/D^b** **D^b**



WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN

C

OH, WHEN THE SAINTS

C

GO MARCH- ING IN OH, WHEN THE

G7

SAINTS GO MARCH- ING IN LORD, I

C C7 F7

WANT TO BE IN THAT NUM- BER WHEN THE

C G7sus4 G C

SAINTS GO MARCH- ING IN OH, WHEN THE SUN

C7

RE- FUSE TO SHINE OH, WHEN THE

G

SUN RE- FUSE TO SHINE LORD, I



C **C7** **F7**

WANT TO BE IN THAT NUM-BER WHEN THE

C **G7sus4** **G** **C** **A7sus4**

SUN RE-FUSE TO SHINE OH, WHEN THE

D

STARS DAY HAVE DIS- AP- PEARED OH, WHEN THE
DAY OF JUDG-MENT COMES OH, WHEN THE

A **A7**

STARS DAY HAVE DIS- AP- PEARED LORD, I
DAY OF JUDG- MENT COMES

D **D7** **G7**

WANT TO BE IN THAT NUM- BER WHEN THE
WHEN THE

D **A7sus4** **A** **1. D**

STARS DAY HAVE DIS- AP- PEARED OH, WHEN THE
DAY OF JUDG- MENT COMES

2. D **A6** **D** **D7**

COMES LORD, I WANT TO BE IN THAT



G D Asus4 A

NUMBER WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCH- ING

D A6 D D7

IN LORD, I WANT TO BE IN THAT

G Gdim7 D/A G/A A

NUM- BER rit..... WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCH- ING

D7 D

IN



HOME ON THE RANGE

BY DR. BREWSTER HIGLEY & DANIEL E. KELLEY

E

OH, GIVE ME A HOME WHERE THE

A Am E F#9 B7

BUF- FA-LO ROAM WHERE THE DEER AND THE AN- TE- LOPE PLAY WHERE

E A Am6 E/B B7

SEL- DOM IS HEARD A DIS- COUR- AG-ING WORD AND THE SKIES ARE NOT CLOUD- Y ALL

E B7 E

DAY HOME HOME ON THE RANGE WHERE THE

C#m7 F#7 B7 E

DEER AND THE AN- TE- LOPE PLAY WHERE SEL- DOM IS HEARD A DIS-

A F#m7(b5) E/B B7 E

COUR- AG-ING WORD AND THE SKIES ARE NOT CLOUD- Y ALL DAY



C7 F B^b B^bm

HOW OF- TEN AT NIGHT WHEN THE HEAV- ENS ARE BRIGHT FROM THE

F/A C7sus4 C F

LIGHT OF THE GLIT- TER- ING STARS HAVE I STOOD THERE A- MAZED AND__

B^b Gm7(b5) F/C C7 F

ASKED AS I GAZED IF THEIR GLO- RY EX- CEEDS THAT OF OURS

F/A C7 F Dm G9

HOME, HOME ON THE RANGE WHERE THE DEER AND THE AN- TE- LOPE

C7sus4 C F B^b G7(b5)

PLAY WHERE SEL- DOM IS HEARD A DIS- COUR- AG- ING WORD AND THE

F/C C7 F

SKIES ARE NOT CLOUD- Y ALL DAY

rit.....



TOMORROW

Lyrics by Martin Charnin, Music by Charles Strouse

E^b E^bmi⁷ A^b Fmi⁷ E^b E^bmi⁷
The sun -'ll come out to - mor - row

A^bmi⁷ Gmi⁷ Cmi Cmi/B^b A^bmi⁷ B^b
bet your bot - tom dol - lar that to - mor - row there'll be sun

E^b E^bmi⁷ A^bmi⁷ Gmi⁷ Cmi Cmi/B^b
think - in' a - bout to - mor - row clears a - way the cob - webs and the sor - row till there's

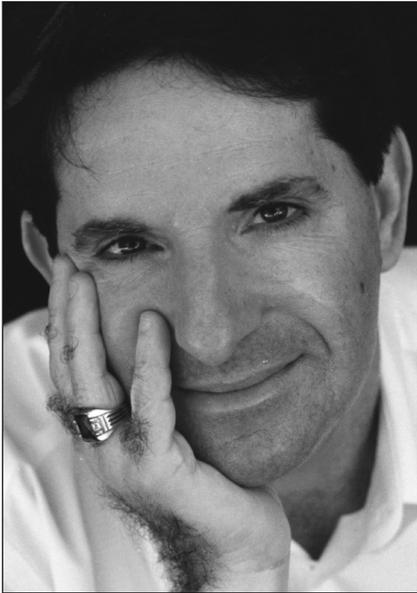
A^bma⁷ B^bsus B^b E^bmi E^bmi/D^b C^b D^b G^b G^bma⁷
none When I'm stuck with a day that's gray and lone - ly ~~Just out in the~~

B^b7sus B^b7 E^b E^bma⁷ A^bma⁷ Gmi⁷
say: Oh! The sun - 'll come out to - mor - row *Soyougottohangontillo-*

Cmi Cmi/B^b Ema⁷ B^b7sus B^b7 E^b E^bma⁷ E^b7 Ab
mor - row come what may! To - mor - row, to - mor - row, I love ya to - mor - row, you're

E^b B^b7sus B^b7 E^b B^b7sus E^b E^bma⁷ E^b7 A^b
on - ly a day a - way to - mor - row, to - mor - row, I Love ya to - mor - row, You're

E^b B^b7sus B^b7 E^b E^bma⁷ A^bma⁷ B^b7sus E^b
on - ly a day a - way



ARTHUR JOSEPH, MA

is recognized as one of America's leading authorities on the human voice and its training. A former professor of voice at the University of Southern California, Arthur Joseph has worked with many of Hollywood's greatest stars, such as Anne Bancroft and Arnold Schwarzenegger, as well as executives from major international corporations, including Toyota and Disney. He is the author of the books *Sound of the Soul* and *Vocal Power: Harnessing the Power Within*; as well as other Sounds True programs. Mr. Joseph also offers a multimedia online vocal training course at vocalawareness.com.