



Song Study Checklist

- Search the internet for lyrics & print or create a digital copy - www.azlyrics.com is my go to - always check them as they can be wrong!
- Go through & mark out the breath expressions with an apostrophe (,) - where does the singer breathe or where do you breathe naturally (remember it cannot be in the middle of a word or in an appropriate part of the sentence. i.e: I love you as one phrase 'scans' better than I (breathe) love (breathe) you...unless of course it is designed to be a dramatic effect, but then it's intentional & not due to poor breath management!
- Check the key is in a good vocal range for you & tweak if needed. Be mindful that your co-ordination change points (aka breaks) may be the reason you are finding it difficult to sing & you can make some choices about tonal qualities to use.
- Identify any tricky vocal spots in the song i.e: high notes (that are within your range but are 'mentally' challenging you), sustained note, trill or other embellishments.
- Isolate & break tricky spots down using the technique i.e: Vowel placement or modification, breath support & resonance placement.
- Practice singing through the entire song focussing on one element at a time i.e.: breathing, pitch, placement etc independently.
- Put it all together & practice some more - until you feel confident with the delivery.
- Add your performance tips/elements.
- Record (audio is fine but ideally video as well) yourself or watch yourself in the mirror & make notes on what you like & what needs improvement.
- Constructively critique your performance or get someone you trust (& ideally is knowledgeable in performance/voice techniques) to give you feedback.
- Tweak where needed & repeat the practice process again!

HANDY HINT:

- If you are having trouble with a song - find a live version of the artist performing it & take notes! Where do they breathe, do they modify phrasing in tricky parts? Use what they themselves do to make the song easier to sing live.