

## Course Content - Voice

### The Voice

- The voice is the *original* musical instrument, and as far as we know, there is no human culture, no matter how small or far away, that does not sing
- These days, people sing for lots of reasons. A long time ago, people sang for mostly religious reasons. They sang *prayers* and they sang as a way of telling stories so others could learn about things.
- Singing has always been a great way to teach or educate. For example, the ABC song.
- As an instrument, the human voice produces a wide variety of notes, tones, and percussive sounds.
- The voice is often considered the ultimate instrument because it can express feelings and emotions in sound and music.
- Overture or polyphonic singers are vocalists who can use their voice to create more than one sound at a time.

### How the Voice Works

- The power source of your voice is the air you breath using your diaphragm. Your diaphragm is a small piece of muscle that separates the abdomen from the chest.
- Next is the larynx or voice box. The larynx is located at the top of the windpipe. Air passing through the vocal cords makes them vibrate to make sound.
- The third part is the resonator. The resonator is your thorax, nose, and mouth. All that space inside your throat, nose, and mouth is where the sound resonates and moves around on its way out.

### Music in Life Lesson:

The Music in Life lesson is a moment to engage in active listening. The Music in Life lesson song for this course is "Don't Worry Be Happy" by Bobby McFerrin. Students are invited to think about how the music makes them feel, think, and move. Music is an individual experience; active listening encourages students to choose their own musical path.

### Voice Types

- The soprano voice is the highest voice type in a vocal range
- The alto is the type of voice that is lower than a soprano but higher than a tenor. It is one of the most common vocal types
- The tenor vocal range is lower than the alto, but higher than the bass
- The bass is the lowest vocal range

### Some of the Highlighted Vocalists

- **Nina Simone** was one of the great jazz and soul singers of the past.
- **Elvis Presley** started out singing rockabilly but soon his vocal talents were topping the rock 'n' roll charts.
- **Ella Fitzgerald** and **Louis Armstrong** were some of the best jazz vocalists of all time.
- **Janis Joplin** was a female rock vocalist known for her exciting stage shows.
- **Frank Sinatra** had a smooth voice, and he used it to sing all kinds of music from jazz to pop
- **Patsy Cline** was a country singer known for her expressive vocal style
- **Freddy Mercury** had a voice that could sing hard rock, mellow jazz, and everything in between.
- **Etta James** was an R&B vocalist who also sang blues, rock, soul, jazz, and even gospel.
- **Judy Garland** made lots of records and performed on the stages of Broadway and in film.
- **Nat King Cole's** vocal talents took him to the top of the charts
- **Pentatonix** is an amazing A Capella group that performs all over the world.
- **Prince** has a wide vocal range and his performances are fun to watch. He's sold over a hundred million records!
- **Christina Aguilera** is an R&B, pop, and soul singer
- **Blake Shelton** is one of the top country singers today
- **Ed Sheeran** is a relatively new pop singer songwriter
- **Barbara Streisand** has a wide range of vocal talents, and she has won eight music awards
- **Bjork** is an Icelandic alternative rock singer
- **Patti Labelle** and **Luther Vandross** are two really cool R&B singers
- **Tom Thumb** is a beat-boxer, and he uses his voice to produce some amazing sounds
- **Josh Groban** and **Celine Dion** are two singers who are comfortable singing jazz, pop, rock, and even opera
- **Aretha Franklin** started singing gospel before becoming an R&B superstar with twenty-one number one R&B hits.