IMPORTANT THINGS WHEN WORKING WITH YOUR SINGERS

1. Hold microphones about 4" away from your mouth.
   Move them away slightly in passages where the volume is increased.

2. Don’t point microphones towards the monitors. This will result in feedback.

3. When setting people into teams, aim for a natural blend of voices - not an opera trained voice with a contemporary style voice. Do not rely too much on the sound man giving a blend.

4. Make sure voices blend as far as voice strength and degree of vibrato. This will require listening to each other to see how you are complimenting each other and if need be adjusting the amount of vibrato.

5. If a song is punchy or syncopated, singers should correspond with same style of phrasing - not legato or on the beat.

6. Eye contact with each other and the band members is good - singers standing in a semi-circular arrangement. Also eye contact with the congregation is important.

7. Make sure you end phrases together and start together. Also be aware of the arrangement of the song so that if you put in any vocal improvisations, it doesn't conflict with any instrumental parts eg. brass or woodwinds.

8. Don't stand like statues - movement is important because it shows you are enjoying yourselves. Make sure you are animated when you come before the people. Work out your own choreography for songs or invite a good dancer in to help you with some basic movement. Remember, it must not be too complicated to the place where concentration on the choreography affects the vocal quality.

9. Learn lyrics well so there isn't as much dependence on reading words. This will also help you to interpret the song according to what the lyrics are expressing.

10. Make sure that your facial expression shows that you are enjoying what you are doing. This becomes infectious.

11. It is important that you can hear yourself properly otherwise you will sing flat. Communicate with the soundman during the rehearsal time if your monitor level isn't satisfactory, cause it is very difficult to get a message to him once the service has started. Remember he is there to assist you.

12. Sing the melody if you are teaching a new song so people learn the correct

melody. Once they have caught hold of the song, then you can add harmonies.

13. Unless you are good at holding harmony stick to the melody. There is nothing worse than singers trying to find their harmony parts during a service at the expense of the rest of the group. Harmonies should be worked out in rehearsal and singers assigned to the various parts for each service. For instance, if you have four singers, place two on melody and the other two on parts. If you have a small group of singers, it is probably best to stick with two-part harmony.

14. Unless your singers are strong enough to hear and hold parts themselves, give them the parts to sing or assign people who are strong with the various parts to teach them. This keeps uniformity in parts and prevents singers from crossing over of parts.

15. Sing with confidence. Know who you are in God and that He has called you to minister with your voice for Him. You must remember that you are a leader in worship and that the congregation is looking to you for strong leadership.

16. Make sure you follow the worship leader instead of jumping ahead of him at the commencement of each phrase. Also hold back in case he decides to go a different direction than the expected. Eg. repeating a verse instead of going into the chorus.

17. Be ready to support the worship leader at every opportunity, especially if he breaks into a spontaneous song or if he doesn't have a great voice. Don't at any time try and override him.

18. Pronounce words of songs clearly so they can be easily understood.

19. If leading the congregation in a time of celebration and encouraging them to clap, leave the microphone in its stand. It is very difficult to clap successfully with a mic in your hand.

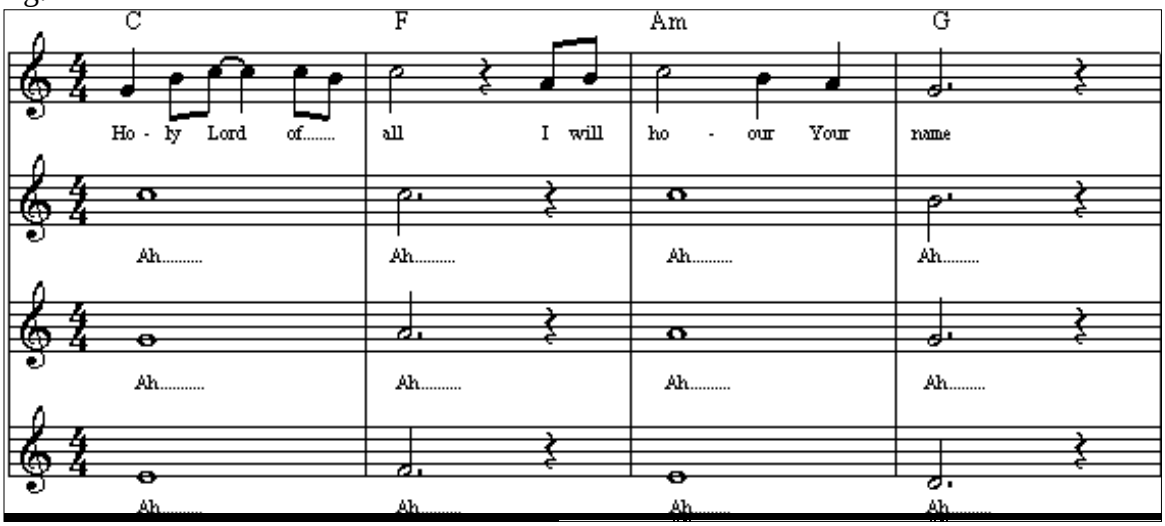
20. Make sure what you wear doesn't distract people from worshipping God eg. watch wearing clothing that makes you look either seductive or shabby.

21. Appoint a leader to your team that you can look to for ending phrases, using particular choreography or coming in together.

22. When singing the "Song of the Lord" don't try and compete with each other. Wait until you are able to properly catch hold of the chord progression being played and then sing, "in honour preferring one another". The best way to overcome this problem, especially when there is a larger group of singers, is for the singers to sing harmony parts and provide a vocal pad behind each singer with a song. This vocal pad would be possibly sung to "Oohs" or "Ahs" and would be built around the chord

progression being played.

Eg.



NB. Soloist in this case is the person singing the "Song of the Lord". If you don't have enough singers to break up into 3-part harmony, try it with 2 parts.

23. Watch your posture. Bad posture affects the free flow of air from the diaphragm.

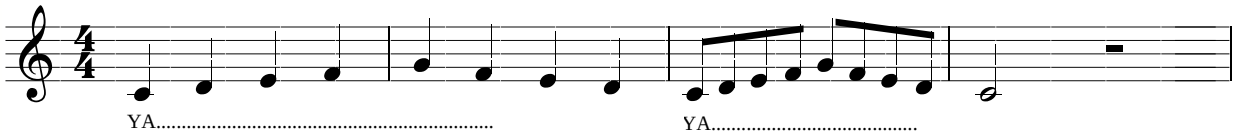
24. Do not sing through your nose. Beware of a nasal sound.

25. Pick spots in the song to take a breath. As bad breathing affects your pitch, it is important to develop stagger breathing.

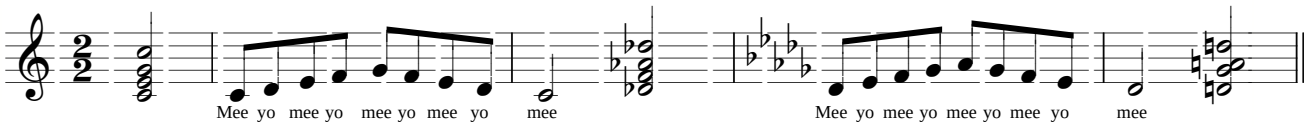
26. Clear your throat and lungs of any foreign matter before a meeting. Warm-up exercises are good for this.

Some **warm-up exercises** you can do are:

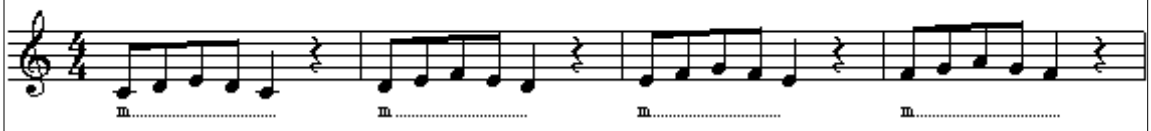
i)



ii) Ascending chromatically

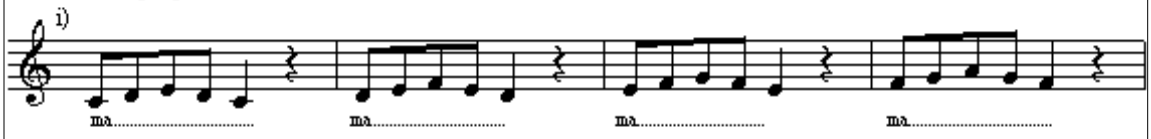


Developing Good Resonance



Developing Vowel and Consonant Sounds

i)



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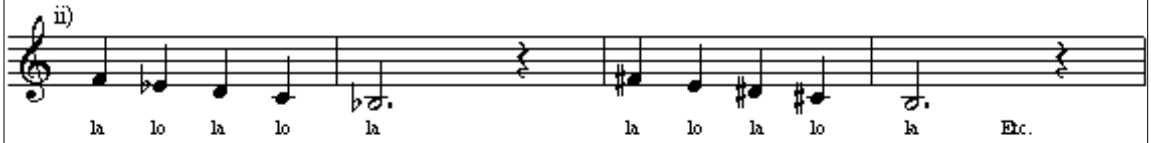

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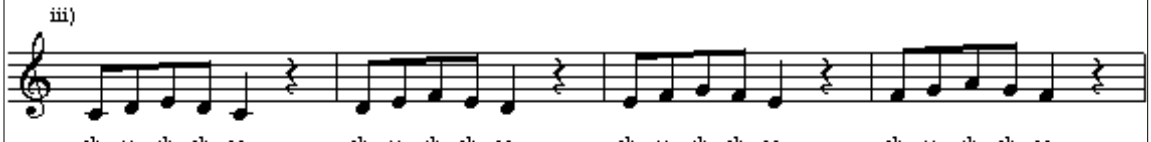

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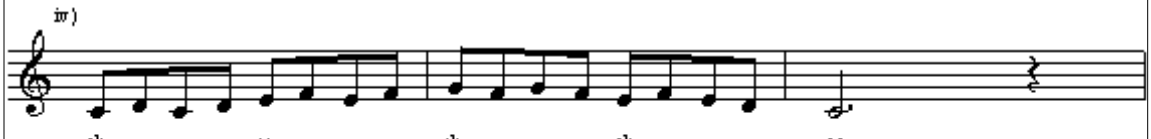

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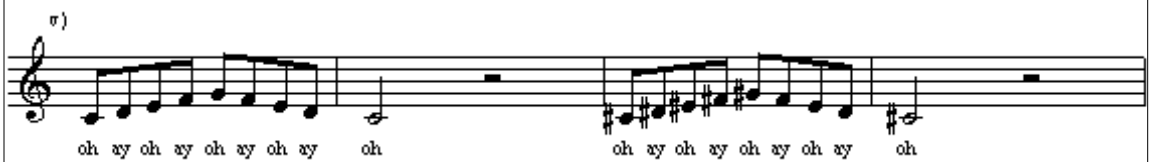

27. As a singer, do not abuse your freedom of expression. i.e. do not take too many liberties once you're in front of a microphone.

28. Do not get disgruntled because you think your voice isn't being used enough. Some people move to other churches for greater recognition or seek worldly music ventures and in doing so, move out of God's divine appointment and will for their lives.

29. Be careful of songs not in your vocal range. Leave them to the other singers.

30. For higher notes, aim over the top of them. This should purely be a mental effort.

31. When singing loudly, do not force the mouth wide open. This causes the throat muscles to become tense, resulting in a forced kind of tone.

32. Remember you are not there to entertain but to minister to the congregation and lead them in worship. Have eye contact with people God places on your heart and pray that God will touch them as you lead and encourage them.

33. Practice singing songs with dynamics. i.e. louds and softs, crescendos and diminuendos etc. Don't just sing songs at the same level all the time. Practise changing your volume from soft to loud, loud to soft, soft to loud back to soft etc.

34. Seek for exercises and songs to give your singers that will be vocally challenging. They must have things that will stretch them beyond where they are at present.