

Unit 2, Module 8

Style:

How's That Going to Happen?

Check-in:

Course work? (*Registration in Popular Styles*)

Studio work? Tried Nasty Triangle?

Listening:

The fact that we can hear *as* we're talking/singing is incredible. How does hearing work?

Afferent: eardrum -> inner ear -> cochlea -> organ of corti -> cilia -> transduction -> brain stem (x5) -> auditory cortex -> brain neighborhood

Efferent: the other direction from auditory cortex for learned listening.

Examples + encouraging this in our clients.

Are students understanding that these tools generate **sounds** that generate **feelings**, and the feelings create long-term organic **changes**.

Video

What is style?

- Ever-evolving sounds of popular styles are primarily created by musicians who are performers.
 - creation of different genres
 - application of technologies
 - musical approach of individual artists
- Values of nearly all popular music is the expression of individuality. Artists have unique and identifiable approaches
 - voice doesn't have to be beautiful
 - necessary for their singing to feel authentic and singular
 - we can typically identify known singers based on their style

Three elements of developing style

- Style can evolve naturally from
 - singing abilities
 - skill or vocal limitations
 - musical influences

- Creating safe space for learning can be challenging for voice teachers and coaches.
 - Tastes
 - Beliefs
 - Prejudices
- Skills to address this found in
 - **voice coaching** - a journey led by the goals and desires of the client - rather than...
 - **voice teaching**, which is typically a journey led by the demands of the genre.
- Coaching skills include
 - learning to understand what creates singing style
 - helping our clients explore their own singing style
 - Using time-honored tools of popular musicians: **Listening, copying, and practicing**

Listening: The Micro & The Macro

Macro

- Refers to the ability to hear and process harmonic information and progressions.
- Some singers understand how harmony works; intuitively, intellectually, or both.

NeuroVocal

a groundbreaking approach to singing

- Knowing about harmony allows singer to incorporate melodic alterations, rhythmic changes, and embellishments.
- Singers who don't know often lack understanding and confidence.

Micro

- Refers to the ability to hear and identify stylistic traits.
- Singers need to know how to listen specifically.
- Micro elements include:
 - vocal scoops
 - onsets
 - vocal fry
 - register breaks
 - melodic alternations
 - embellishments
 - application of various sonic colors and textures

Copying

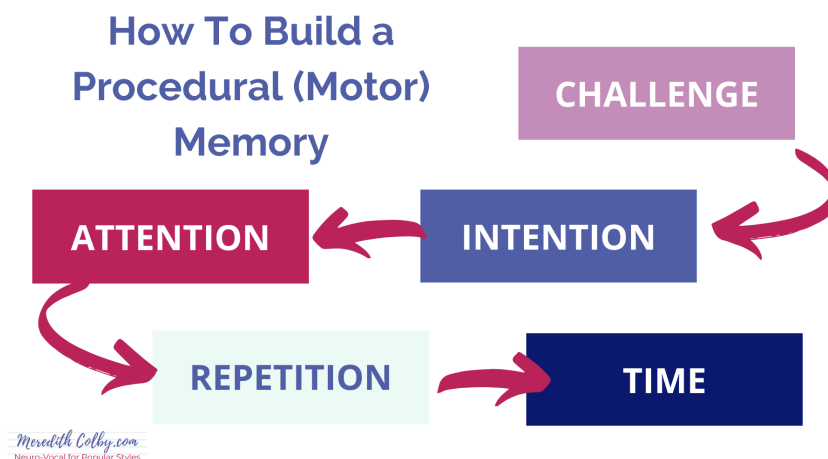
- Knowing how to listen enables copying with understanding and confidence.
- Many singers do this intuitively and well
- The more your client listens for these elements of style, the easier they'll be to hear and identify.
- Client may feel some resistance to this intentional copying.

- Practice copying. For instance:
 - use artist recording of a song
 - focus on a short phrase
 - Identify one or more stylistic skills that singer is using,
 - Help client copy that skill.
 - Repeat over and over

Practicing

The more the desired behavior is repeated, the stronger the motor memory becomes.

The building blocks required to create a motor memory are the same regardless of your intelligence or talent.



Copying vs. agency

Personal style is a continuum. Singer/Songwriter and cruise ship singer are both signing popular styles. But the cruise ship singer has very little agency, and the singer/songwriter wants 100% agency. But even there, an indy singer/songwriter has more artistic agency than a country, jazz, theatrical, or metal singer/songwriter.

We can endeavor to make a safe space for our clients to experiment and practice artistic agency.

Listening

If you don't, nobody will.

Macro:

- Spend time on “listening in the macro.” Many singers have not interacted with music as a pattern of harmonic progressions. One of the hallmarks of many popular styles is the simplicity of the harmonic structure. It's crucial that both the teacher and client have an understanding of
 - the relationship between harmony & melody
 - The repetitive nature of chord progressions
 - The existing familiarity of many chord progressions (e.g. I-iv-ii-V)

- Song form

Micro listening + application (copying)

- Copying demo (Meghan Trainor song -> a fry onset + a scoop + placement.)
- Address the resistance to copying. Individuality is valued in popular styles.

Practicing:

- What are your tricks, thoughts, and frustrations around practicing?

Workshop

Yodel

Wiley Coyote