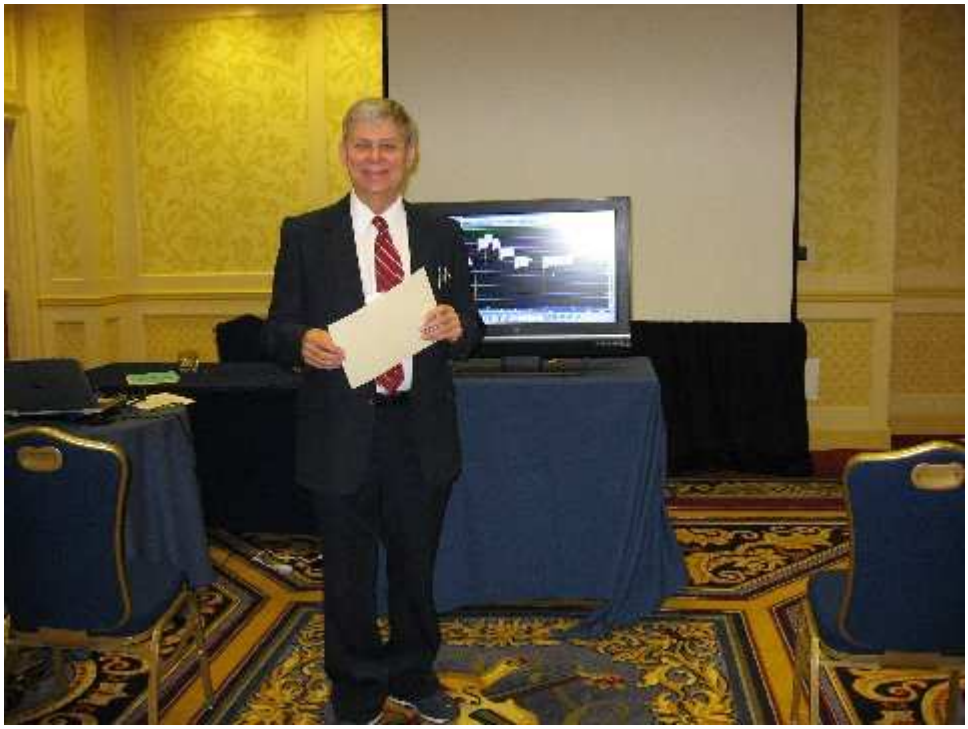
Assessing and Improving Singing Abilities Utilizing Singing Coach™ and Singing Coach Unlimited™



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Abstract: This presentation examines and illustrates the features of Singing Coach™ and Singing Coach Unlimited™ This highly recommended, and recently developed new software, can be utilized at all levels of singing from age 8 through adulthood. . It may be used at both home and within school computer labs. It is also helpful at the class level for vocal techniques classes, and choral sectional woodsheding of individual chorus parts.

Topics Considered

*Finding Vocal Range
*Evaluation Scores, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced.
*Singing Lessons
*Composer feature
*Inputting MIDI files

Software Functionality

Singing Coach™ and Singing Coach Unlimited™ are designed to allow singers help themselves learn to sing in tune and with accurate tempo. This software displays a pitch-tracking line that follows the melody in either graphic or music notation format and instantaneously illustrates sharp/flat or on-pitch singing as it occurs. A metronome provides aural tempo awareness as the moving cursor and highlighted measures visually illustrate location in relation to melodic pattern.

Singing can be recorded allowing viewer to both see and hear pitch deviations as they occur. Sight-singing courses would benefit from this program as teachers develop, or use included exercises for practice and evaluation. An evaluation score (100 top number) is given at beginner, intermediate, or advanced levels to provide immediate feedback after singing whole songs or exercises.

At each level scrutiny becomes closer and more critical for intonation accuracy. Because the key can be transposed instantly and the program develops an identifiable vocal range for each singer, individual vocal pitch abilities can be accommodated. Tempos can be changed for practice at various speeds and instrumental timbres varied for accompaniment backgrounds. Introductions and starting pitches help singers develop perceptual habits before initiating singing. An additional composition feature allows users to enter their own notes and lyrics to create new songs or vocalizes for specific vocal ranges.

Anyone who sings will find these programs useful. (The age recommendation is age eight to adult.) Sight-singing courses would benefit from this program as teachers use included exercises or develop their own for practice and evaluation. Singers working individually at home or on a school computer can experiment and gain immediate reinforcement without fear of embarrassment.

A microphone with headset is included with the package. Information on the box and Web site and in the explanation pamphlet is accurate and clear. Tutorial videos are well done and get you up and running quickly. Singing lessons are tasteful and of interest to all ages. Basic principles of good singing are well illustrated and clearly explained.

This is the first software of its type with all the features mentioned above. Other Karaoke-type software does not include either the pitch-recognition and recording feature or the voice

lesson instruction. This software is highly recommended and will allow individuals of all ages to improve their singing.

Sites where you may download choral classics for "Woodsheding" and Evaluation

*The CyberBass Project--Gabriel Faure
http://www.cyberbass.com/Major_Works/Faure%20G/faure.htm
*The Bach Cantata Project-- Mass in b-minor
http://www.cyberbass.com/Bach_Cantata_Project/BWV_001_020/bach_BWV001.htm
http://www.cyberbass.com/Major_Works/Bach_J_S/bach_js_b_minor_mass.htm
*Haydn http://www.cyberbass.com/Major_Works/Haydn_M/m_haydn_requiem.htm
*Choral MIDI Song Files http://www.notation.com/MIDI-Choral.html
*Händel Messiah MIDI files for note-bashing
http://www.topology.org/midi/hand/README.html
*Welcome to the Bach Chorale Sets Download Page
http://www.jsbchorales.net/chortxt.html
*MIDI practice files for Bach Magnificat in D minor (BWV 243)
http://www.ultimate.com/ccc/magnificat/
*MIDI practice files for Handel's Messiah http://www.ultimate.com/ccc/messiah/
*THE SILVIS WOODSHED http://gasilvis.net/ STRONG source of many choral and vocal works that can be utilized to learn parts. Only includes choral parts and no accompaniment. Very fundamental piano accompaniments are provided.

Software Demographics

Electronic Learning Products, Inc. Website: http://www.carry-a-tune.com/index.php
Singing Coach Kids http://www.carryatune.com/products.php?prodid=9 6 and up--approximately, $29.99.
Minimum System Requirements, Pentium II, 400MHz, Memory, 128MB, Display resolution: 800x600, Video card that supports 16 bit color, CD-ROM, 200MB of free disk space, Windows XP, 2000 or Me.
Singing Coach Unlimited™ allows tracking process for three additional singers over Singing Coach™ for a total of six, and also Midi Import and Compose mode. Approximate prices $49.95 and $99.95. A number of songs are included with both Singing Coach™ and Singing Coach Unlimited™, and users can download a wide variety of additional songs from the Carry-a-Tune Web site.