

# Vocalist (Singer/Actor)

## Practitioner

1. Timbre--the perceived sound quality of a musical note or tone that distinguishes different types of sounds from one another
2. Head Voice--a part of the vocal range in which sung notes cause the singer to perceive a vibratory sensation in his or her head
3. Chest Voice-- a part of the vocal range in which sung notes cause the singer to perceive a vibratory sensation in his or her chest
4. Middle Voice-- a part of the vocal range which exists between the head voice and chest voice in a female vocalist
5. Falseto Voice--a part of the vocal range the exist above the head voice in a male vocalist
6. Tessitura—the most musically acceptable and comfortable vocal range for a given singer
7. Modal Voice--the vocal register used most frequently in speech and singing; also known as the resonant mode of the vocal cords, it is the optimal combination of airflow and glottal tension that yields maximum vibration
8. Passaggio--the term used in classical singing to describe the transition between vocal registers (i.e. head voice, chest voice, etc.)
9. Belting—a specific technique of singing by which a singer brings his or her chest register above its natural break point at a loud volume; often described and felt as supported and sustained yelling
10. Melisma—a passage of multiple notes sung to one syllable of text
11. Riffs and Runs –melodic notes added by the singer to enhance the expression and emotional intensity of a song; a form of vocal embellishments during singing
12. Vocal Singing Parts—most commonly soprano, alto, tenor, and bass, which are used to create harmony.

## Performer

1. Vocal Rest—a clearly defined time frame in which a singer or vocalist refrains from speaking or singing in an effort to prevent vocal damage (i.e. prior to a live performance) or to recover from vocal injury
2. True Vocal Folds—also known as vocal cords or vocal reeds are composed of twin infoldings of mucous membrane stretched horizontally from the front to the back of the voice box; these structures vibrate, modulating the flow of air being expelled from the lungs during speech or singing
3. False Vocal Folds –thick folds of mucous membrane that protect and sit slightly above the more delicate true vocal folds; they play a minimal role in normal sound production.
4. Phonation—the process of creating spoken sound via talking or singing

5. Vocal Cord Abduction—separation of the vocal cords; occurs during breathing
6. Vocal Cord Adduction—near closure of the vocal cords; occurs during talking or singing usually while vibrating
7. Larynx—voice box or throat
8. Epiglottis—a structure that covers the larynx during swallowing of food and drink to prevent aspiration into the lungs
9. Laryngoscope—a thin flexible tube used by voice specialists (such as otolaryngologist or ear, nose, and throat (ENT) doctors) which allows them to obtain direct visualization of the vocal cords and surrounding laryngeal structures; this is required in order to fully evaluate vocal disorders
10. Erythema--redness
11. Edema—swelling