

## Method and Pedagogy

In studying with Keith as your vocal coach, you will learn a great deal more than just how to sing any style or any song you wish. The focus is on specific trouble areas and applying solutions that get results quickly. No long boring and unusable scales or hours of theory that amount to nothing more than that – more theories! The focus will be on YOUR unique and individual sound and style, and develop the YOU that you always knew you could become. The areas of focus are:

**Breaks:** Also known as a "cracks" or interruptions in the vocal sound production process. This event occurs when a sudden change in tone is caused when excessive airflow overcomes vocal-cord tension which causes you to lose the connection of tone or sound production. By applying simple exercises and vocal techniques, this can be avoided permanently.

**Bridges:** Areas where there is a register break in the consistency of sound production in the vocal chords. A bridge or "passage" from one area of vocal resonance to another is what this is most commonly referred to as. With proper application, we can begin to "connect" and smooth out your bridges – giving you balance, control and consistent sound in your singing.

**Breathing:** In short, for many voice instructors, this has been the area of much concern. With our SLS method, wasted air is minimized so creating "support" or "diaphragmatic" breathing exercises are minimally important. When the chords properly adduct, and are phonated correctly, air loss is minimized and efficiency of sound production is maximized.

**Falsetto:** A type of vocal production, similar to head voice, that lets you experience the singing in the higher part of your range but without power or control. Unlike true head voice, falsetto cannot blend or connect with your chest voice because when produced the cords are not allowed to adduct properly and a disconnected sound is produced.

**Pitch:** It has been said that perfect pitch is not possible. With our methods you will learn that near perfect pitch is possible. When your ears are tuned and you are only concerned with singing and not worried about the notes, then you can achieve far greater results putting you "in key".

**Resonance:** Occurs naturally when the voice is free to travel through the spaces above your vocal chords in your resonator cavities, where it is modified by words and amplified before leaving the mouth. It determines the final quality of your tone or sound and makes your voice sound different from anyone else's. Also a part of resonance is vocal "timbre" or the unique sound that is produced exclusively by your own vocal instrument.

**Speech-Level-Singing – SLS:** This is the foundation of this vocal methodology. SLS allows you to sing anywhere in your range with ease, power agility and expression. Fundamentally it is a system for singing at a level of speech – without strain, yelling pushing or pulling your voice where it should not go.

**Tone:** Distinguishes musical tones from noise. Tone is a sustained and even pitch, and caused by regular and constant vibrations of air pressure and is set in motion by similar vibrations in the body producing the tone.

**Vibrato:** A natural oscillation of the vocal cords. When you hear a good vibrato, is it soothing and easy to listen to. It is not forced or wobbly and when executed properly, makes the voice sound even more beautiful and in control. Many voice instructors will have you perform exercises that engage the diaphragm and a lot of air. This is incorrect as the chords when adducted properly create this event on their own.