

Decoding the Spots

Analyzing Arrangements for Instruction and Interpretation

THAT LOOK YOU GET



**WHEN YOU ARE STARTING
A NEW PIECE OF MUSIC**

Need a Strategy?

Analyze

- Use a list of common issues in our music as a guide.

Teach

- Use a variety of modalities to help singers understand and identify the concepts used to analyze the music.

Rehearse

- Isolate and practice the necessary skills to deal with the details in the music.

Baby, You Can Drive My Car

Let's take a look at the new regional song to see what we can discover!

Analyze:

Key

- Check the range of each part and match to your singers' abilities. Adjust if needed.

Meter/Tempo

- Did the arranger provide metronome markings? Is it swing feel or straight time? Listen to original and BBS performances for reference.

Analyze

Song Structure/Form

- AABA? ABAC? Medley?

Key Changes

- How many? Placed where?
Voice leading? Easy or difficult?

Analyze and Label:

Octaves

- Mark wherever they occur making note of any that are tonal center

Major 2nds (Phnerts) 😊

- These require equal balance regardless of voice part

Analyze and Label:

Accidentals

- Are there clusters? Any recurring patterns?

Enharmonics

- How does the chord change around the “repeated” pitch?

Analyze and Label:

X above the staff

- Duet to balance. Add singers if needed.

Melody transfers

- Which parts? Duet parts to work for seamless delivery.

Analyze

Patterns in vocal lines

- Movement by step? Large intervals? Outlining triads?

Movement of vocal lines at page turns

- look for possible pitfalls

Analyze

Jumpy part lines

- consecutive intervals more than thirds apart?

Rhythmic interest

- Syncopation? Triplets?
Stomp time?

Analyze

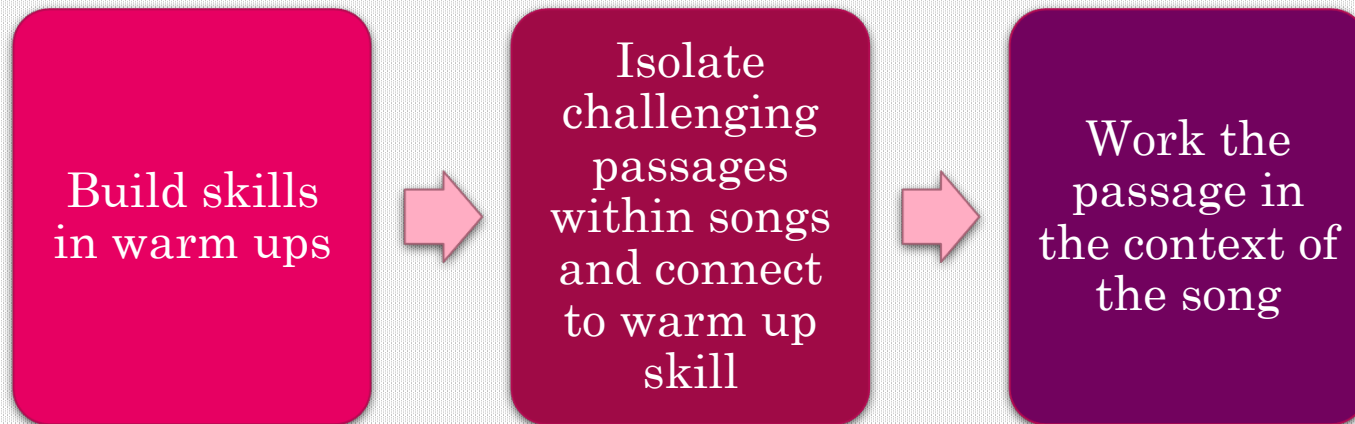
Embellishments

- How do they move? Duets, trios?
Any octaves to lock? Is the
purpose movement or thrills?
Posts?

Wordy passages

- Look for pulse points. Can it be
simplified?

Teaching process



Teach to all learners

Visual

- show the music on a doc cam and highlight the focus skill

Auditory

- play learning media at rehearsal then sing along

Kinesthetic

- use body percussion to reinforce rhythms