

# GET OUT OF THE RUT

## The Quartet Journey ...

Courting

Engagement

Honeymoon

Doing Laps

The Split

Why don't we DO what we know we need to DO,  
... to GO where we say we want to GO?

- Lack of knowledge
- Priorities
- Personal needs
- Fears

## STEP 1 – Start a “quartet business”

Do a “quartet inventory”

Establish company attitudes.

Create a map

Hit the road!

## STEP 2 – LIFT YOUR MUSIC OFF THE PAGE:

**Analyze your music together** – mark octaves, p-notes, traps, peak(s)

**Explore the emotional message together** – character/attitude you all believe in

**Interpret your music together** – mark breaths, dynamics, vowels, visuals, eye focus

**Establish “home” words”** - 5-6 places/song where you all “meet” as one perfect unit

### **STEP 3 – EMBRACE YOUR VOICE PART:**

**BASS      Wheel base & drive shaft – foundation, responsible for tuning/overtone**

- Maintain accurate, resonant, stable (not stiff) vocal production
- Place voice so ring/overtone is always present
- Provide lead-like focus and commitment in performance

**LEAD      Steering wheel & driver's seat – communicates the message/melody**

- Know where you're going with the song at all times
- Be consistent
- Maintain strong connection with audience

**TENOR      Glitz & sunroof – conduit for overtones/ring, provides sparkle to sound**

- Maintain height and open resonance so others can sing into her space
- Modify vowels/dynamics as needed to achieve above
- Stay involved and connected to your own brand of power/command

**BARI      Engine & interior space – blends other voices together, provides power**

- Be brave – lay it out there even when not next to lead
- Relish the beauty and "completion" you bring to the music
- Sing accurately and lyrically - don't get caught up in jumpy line

### **STEP 4 – FIRE UP YOUR REHEARSALS:**

**Embrace your sound**

- Sing listening in one direction only
- Sing behind one another in a line – switch positions
- Perform with only one duet singing
- Sing in power stance – support and strength
- Sing after bubbling a phrase – relaxed energy

### **Embrace your body (kinesthetic)**

- **Breathing** – play an accordion, bend over a chair, bend candle flame without a flicker
- **Project voice** – throw a football in the air ... or a bowling ball down the lane
- **Assist with pitch** – point in opposite direction of musical line line, bird on a branch
- **Smooth singing** – violin, hand on forearm, hands on soapy glass table, paint the sound  
pull satin ribbon through your fingers, feel velvet, “wax on, wax off”
- **Synch** – finger to palm, turn card over (for pickups), conduct together,  
circle the clock together (diphthongs), hold fingers right in front of lips
- **Forward motion** – skater on ice, spinning hands, reeling in a fish
- **Resonation**
  - Lifted, frontal sound – cat whiskers, touch teeth
  - Buoyant sound – juggle, pick tissue out of box
  - Freedom of sound – circles around your ears with hands, walk while singing
  - Focused sound – ring the doorbell, finger to forehead or nose, in-line gesture
  - Increased space – stretch a rubber band, hands to sides of head

### **Embrace the lyrics/emotion**

- Change pronouns or descriptors to keep the lyrics fresh
- Change the context – Recently? A few years ago? A long time ago?
- Sing to different colors – textures - wattages  
(fizz, sparkle, velvet, diamonds, sandpaper, molasses, spandex – discover more!)
- or ages – child, teen, young mother, working woman, elderly woman
- or settings – park bench, cozy fire, lonely bedroom, desperate hospital waiting room
- or singers – Streisand, Liza M, Bette Midler, Ethel Merman, Peggy Lee, Etta James
- Sing as though this is the very last time you will ever sing this song
- Sing with the animation of a children’s storyteller
- Speak a phrase out of cadence until it feels natural – then sing it that way
- Mentally reinsert conversational questions in the lyrics
- Explore different intents – change someone, help someone, fix a problem, get help
- Create a physical journey – seated, standing, walking toward someone, facing him

### **Embrace the rhythm**

- Rubber bands
- Slap thighs
- Crocodile hands
- Step touch
- Spin hands
- Move to the rhythm ( $\frac{1}{2}$  on beat,  $\frac{1}{2}$  on syllable ... or  $\frac{1}{2}$  on downbeat,  $\frac{1}{2}$  on beat)

### **Embrace one another**

- Sing all on one note, noticing every nuance of pronunciation
- Sing holding hands, eyes closed
- Sing in a circle facing out, holding hands and leaning out
- Pair up, sing close together – then move further apart and sing again, still connecting
- Sing from 4 corners of a room ... or in a big open space

### **Embrace the audience**

- Don't rehearse – PERFORM!

### **GET ON YOUR TOES!      *Do or do not ... there is no "try" Yoda***

- **FOCUS**                Simply paying attention fixes most problems. Get in the game!
- **ENGAGE**             Learn to "stoke own fire"
- **POWER**              Fall in love with having command.

***If you don't change direction, you will end up where you are headed. Lao Tsu***

***Your future depends on many things, but mostly yourself. Frank Tyger***