

A Guide to Markings For Singers

Place these markings in the score whenever instructed, and even when not!

(with thanks to Don Neuen, Simon Carrington, and many others from whom I've learned lessons)






These marks go ABOVE the staff:

1. > Accent = *strike* the syllable
2. ○ Circle around syllable = *stress* the syllable
3. — Agogic accent = *lean* on syllable; give full value
4. • Staccato = *shorten* the note and syllable; separate from next note
5. ♯ Fermata = *hold* the note

Language is the heart of the reason a chorus exists. We *must* exaggerate, *must* overstate, *must* be physically percussive, *must* project, *must* work hard at it, 100% of the time!

~Don Neuen

These marks go between the staff and the text:

6.  Crescendo = get *louder*
7.  Diminuendo = get *softer*
8. <—> Crescendo/stress/diminuendo = *every* phrase has several of these moments
9.  Spin = move forward with *intensified, sustained tone*
10.  Forward motion = move the note, syllable or word *quickly forward* to establish great forward motion to this destination
11. RAL Rallentando = slowing down; easing up
or

12. ✓ Breath mark above the staff = standard breath mark; breathe here!
13. [Diction mark for slight glottal attack in text = add clarity to beginning of word
I [al - ways [en - thuse [el - e - gant - ly!
14. ≡ Diction mark for consonant emphasis in text = add clarity to beginning of word by triple-underlining the consonant

© 2011 Jeffrey Richard Carter

Permission for reproduction is granted provided the copyright notice is included. • www.jeffreycarter.us

