

## A Powerful Way to Learn

Each step of this process teaches to a different part of your brain.

You will need BOTH the sheet music (visual) and learning tracks (auditory) to learn this way.

### 1) Listen and follow the sheet music

Listen to the full mix (if available, otherwise your part predominant) and follow the sheet music. Don't sing, don't hum, and be, well . . . silent. Make sure your eyes track along with your sheet music (even if you don't read music it is a road map) and perhaps take your pointer finger and move it left to right as you read. Do this 3 or more times. This is to get the big picture and form of the song. For people who say they DON'T read music, it's OK. You can see the words and see the notes going higher and lower . . . that's all you need. Track with your eyes and listen with your ears.

Then . . .

### 2) Part in isolation

Hear your part alone (one earbud in, or pan to the left or right speaker side) and follow along with the sheet music. Don't sing, don't hum, and you guessed it, be silent. Get a really good idea of your part. Notice the tricky spots. Keep looking at the sheet music!! Do this 10 or more times. This is to help you see how YOUR voice part fits into the big picture of the song.

Then . . .

### 3) Pitch of your part in isolation

Play the same voice part (one earbud in, or pan to the left or right speaker side) and follow along with the sheet music, but add a new element. Very quietly sing "ooh" or hum along...just get a really good idea of the pitches of your part. Your singing should be very gentle and quiet because we want you to hear the recording louder than you "ooh" singing. Do this as many times as you think you need....I would guess 6 times for most of the chart, and 10 to 12 times on tricky sections, Get fussy. This is to learn the pitches in isolation, but not worry about words or exact rhythms.

Then . . .

### 4) Silent Singing

Listen to your part only (one earbud in, or pan to the left or right speaker side) and follow along with the sheet music, Silently mouth the words to your part. I know this sounds crazy, but you now focus on the words and rhythms without worrying about the pitch. Fight the urge to sing, don't exhale forming the words with an airy sound, be quiet and focus on word mastery...silently mouthing along. Do this 3 time or more.

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Yes, continue to track the sheet music with your eyes and pointer finger following left to right. This is to isolate and lock in the words of the song.

Then . . .

### 5) Write the Words

Try to write down all the words on a separate piece of paper without looking at your printed music. If you have trouble, listen to the audio again while you watch the words. Then try writing it again without looking. Stay on this step until you have all the right words written without looking back at the printed music.

Then....

### 6) Soft singing

Sing at a weirdly quiet volume with all word and notes along with your part-isolated learning track. Just be note and word perfect...at a very soft volume. Your vocal production will be too light for performance in this step, but it's OK for now. Just sing quietly enough that the recording is louder than your voice. Do this 3 or more times. This is to put the pitches AND words together, but still have the track to lean on.

Then, the most important, often forgotten step . . .

### 7) Quartet singing

Switch earbuds (or change the speaker sides) and sing YOUR part against the other 3 parts . . . yes, your part is now missing and you must create the notes to your part all by yourself! You may discover you are singing wrong notes or words during this step, If quartet singing is too difficult, you may have to first sing with the full mix (if available). After you are feeling confident, make yourself sing against the trio at some point...it reveals all! Do this 15 times. This is to put the pitches and words together, but now NOT have the track to lean on.

You should now have the song committed to memory, but regular practice of step 7 will keep the song fresh in your memory.