

A Powerful Way to Learn

Each step of this process teaches to a different part of your brain. You will need BOTH the song sheets (visual) and Learning Tracks (auditory) to learn this way.

1) Listen and follow the sheet music

Listen to the Learning Track of your voice-part only 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 5 to 10 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) Pitch of your part in isolation

Listen to the Learning Track of your voice-part only again 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 your "ooh" singing. Do this as many times as you think you need....I would guess 6 times for most of the song, and 10 to 12 times on tricky sections, Get fussy. This is to learn the pitches in isolation, but don't worry about words or exact rhythms yet.

Then . . .

3) Silent Singing

Listen to your part only and follow along with the sheet music, Silently mouth the words to your part. I know this sounds crazy, but you are now focusing 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. Think 'lip-sync'. Do this 3 time or more.

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 . . .

4) Write the Words

If the lyrics are long or complex, 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....

5) 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.

6) Harmony singing

Switch to the Learning Track of your part that is called "part predominant". That simply means that instead of just hearing your part, you will hear all four parts with your part played with greater volume so you can still follow it.

Silently listen to the combination of voices. After four or five time through, try to sing your part softly along with the Learning Track. It will take some concentration to stay with your part without getting sidetracked by one of the others. It's okay. It happens to almost everyone. It is another skill to master, like playing different notes with each hand on a piano.

7) Putting It Together

Now the fun part. Gather together with others who sing your part and the other three and create harmony.