

TWELVE STEPS TO LEARNING MUSIC

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Many singers attempt to learn the music in the car while listening to the learning media. Although learning may occur to some degree in this method, a more systematic method for more thorough learning is suggested here. This method maximizes use of the two parts of the brain, one that facilitates learning the music and one for learning the lyrics. Then the two are brought together with the added physical dimension of muscle memory and performing. This method presumes that a learning media, music manuscript, and word sheet have been prepared and that the singer has, at least, the ability to read the notes/direction of her part.

1. Listen to the **learning media** while you close your eyes. DO **NOT** SING YET!
2. Read the **word sheet** aloud, noting repeated phrases, words, rhymes.
3. Listen to the **learning media** (if possible, just the melody line) as you read **the word sheet**. DO **NOT** SING YET!
4. Now switch to the **music manuscript** and watch your notes while you listen. DO **NOT** SING YET!
5. Now watch your notes on the **music manuscript** and gently sing each note of your part on a "Doo-doo" syllable 2-3 times through; do **not** look at the words on the manuscript.
6. Using the **word sheet**, on the 4th time, watch the words while you sing Doo-doo to your part. Note and mark your trouble spots.
7. Using the **manuscript**, watch the words as you sing Doo-doo to your part. Note and mark your trouble spots.
8. Stand and silently sing the song 2-3 times with the **learning media**, concentrating upon the breathing plan and good vocal production technique as you memorize what your body is doing as you sing.
9. Return to the **manuscript** and watch both the words and the notes as you *hum* your part. Repeat Step 9 as you *sing* your part lyrically.
10. Using *only* the **word sheet**, sing your part, noting the remaining troublesome areas for you. (Repeat Steps 5-7 for that passage.)
11. While listening to the **learning media**, perform the song silently in front of a mirror **without manuscript or word sheet**
12. Without listening to the learning media, perform the song full voice in front of a mirror **without manuscript or word sheet**