



FEATURE ONE

THE SINGING SERIES, PART 3: HIGHLIGHTING YOUR VOCAL STRENGTHS

Meets National Core Arts Anchor Standards 5, 7, 9 and 10

OBJECTIVES

- Develop and refine artistic work for presentation (*Pr5*)
- Perceive and analyze artistic work (*Re7*)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work (*Re9*)
- Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art (*Co10*)

MATERIALS

- *Music Alive!* magazines (December 2018)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

START

Ask your students to read “Singing Series Pt. 3: Highlighting Your Vocal Strengths” on pages 6-9 before reviewing the words below. [This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.]

MODULATE—vary the strength, tone, or pitch of (one’s voice)

PERSONA—the aspect of someone’s character that is presented or perceived by others

COMPATIBLE—able to exist or occur together without conflict

FORMIDABLE—inspiring fear or respect through being impressively powerful

ENTHRALL—capture the fascinated attention of

PERPETUAL—never ending or changing

UNMOORED—without ropes, chains, or anchors

SCHEMATA—representation of a plan or theory

AVANT-GARDE—new and unusual or experimental ideas

COMBINATORIAL—of a combination

CADENCE—a fall in pitch of the voice at the end of a phrase

PROFICIENT—competent or skilled in doing or using something

DYNAMISM—the quality of being dynamic and positive in attitude

COLORATURA—elaborate ornamentation of a vocal melody, especially in operatic singing

MELLIFLUOUS—sweet or musical; pleasant to hear

LIBERAL—given, used, or occurring in generous amounts

DEVELOP

► **Play** Bob Dylan’s “Like a Rolling Stone”
(*Hear the Music track 3* at musicalive.com)

- What about his voice is different from traditional folk/rock voices you have heard before?
- Do you enjoy listening to his voice?
- Would you call him a talented vocalist?

► **2. Play** the video and listen to Ann Wilson’s performance of the same song (*Learn More* at musicalive.com/december-2018)

- Which performance did you enjoy more?
- Do you think Wilson’s voice is well suited to this song?

► **3. Play** Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody”
(*Hear the Music track 4* at musicalive.com)

- How would you characterize Freddie Mercury’s voice?
- Which parts in the song stand out to you the most, in terms of vocals?
- What elements of the melody and song structure make it a good song to display Mercury’s abilities as a singer?

► **4. Play** Louis Armstrong’s “What a Wonderful World” (*Hear the Music track 5* at musicalive.com)

- What is your initial reaction to his voice?
- Does his unique sound appeal to you?
- What popular song would you like to hear him sing/do you think would be a good fit for his voice?

► **5. Play** Lil Wayne’s “Dark Side of the Moon”
(*Hear the Music track 6* at musicalive.com)

- Do you find the autotune on their voices distracting? Or is it an essential quality of the song?
- What do you like about this song?
- What if Ariana Grande sang this song instead of Lil Wayne? Do you think it would be received differently?

DISCUSS

- What characteristics make a particular voice suitable for a particular song?
- Why can’t anybody sing any song and have it sound good?
- Which song from the list was the most successful in your opinion based on the song/voice pairing?

ASSESS

Did the students read the article?
Did they participate in the discussion about different voices and songs?