

THE CONFUSION ABOUT BELTING

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Several methods of teaching singing advocate direct manipulation of the inner structures of the throat in order to sing certain belt qualities, but traditional vocal pedagogy is adamantly opposed to adjusting the throat directly at any time. Further, there are several styles of belting, and not all of them are the same. Those that are not manipulated are better both aesthetically and functionally.

This presentation is a lecture with slides, with audio examples and live demonstrations of belting. It will present an overview of belting from the past and present, with different auditory markers and stylistic parameters, as found in various eras and styles. It will also illuminate the confusion that reigns worldwide about this particular type of vocal production.

It is important that all vocal pedagogy align with known vocal health practices and with clear understanding of voice science as it applies to sung vocal tones. This presentation will address the demands of the 21st century music marketplace. It will explain why a conservative approach to belting is safest, simplest and most effective, both personally and professionally; and why relying upon long-held views of the medical and clinical disciplines about what constitutes healthy vocal function is necessary.

The author is a classical lyric soprano who has been belting since the age of 19 and has been teaching professional belters for 45 years. Her students are rock stars, Broadway leads, and Gospel vocalists performing throughout the world.

Since the presentation involves live singing examples, it would not transfer well to a poster presentation.