

# SING

T H E C O U R S E

## *SING Jazz*

Jazz originates from the BLUES and has a diverse and deep history. To sing jazz, you need to understand the music first. But for today's lesson, we're going to talk about the Jazz Zone or vocal placement to sing jazz.

Take your tongue to the roof of your mouth. I like to call this area the peanut butter zone. Do you ever get peanut butter stuck in the roof of your mouth? Well, singing jazz is like getting peanut butter stuck in the roof of your mouth. You need to place your sound up against your hard palate and feel it literally vibrate around up there. This creates a thinner sound, not quite as big and full as your Broadway Zone and not as forward or nasal as your pop zone.

We'll learn more about your pop placement in the next section.

CAROL FRAZIER

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Your Jazz zone is really a mix between *Pop* and *Broadway*, with the sound vibrating against the roof of your mouth.

To find the roof of your mouth, I want you to bite down on a small piece of paper. Now, tear out your bite mark. Put this paper up against your teeth creating a small cave for the sound to get trapped up in the roof of your mouth.

Say the word *HE, HE, HE*, focusing your air up into the hard palate. Lift your soft palate at the same time for the air to easily move to this zone.

Now sing the ABC's with the paper in place. It'll be hard to say your consonants with clarity but that's ok. The point is to feel the air vibrate in the hard palate.

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One of the reasons to keep your sound thin and up in this zone is because Jazz singers emanate horn players with their tones, riffs and runs. Keeping in the hard palate allows the singer to move quickly around with words, scats, riffs and vocal runs.

So, as I said earlier Jazz is diverse and rich in history as well as diverse and rich in music. To say that all Jazz is just up in your hard palate is just talking about one piece of the picture. Most singers move back and forth from Broadway to Pop to Blues and back up to a thin Jazz placement, all while moving up and down from head voice to the chest voice. This is the most fluid of the zones. So, to really dive deep into Jazz you need to master all the zones vertically as well as horizontally.

Being a Jazz singer for over twenty-five years, I find that I'm always learning and growing. It's sincerely an art form that takes a life time to master. In my upcoming advanced vocal series, I will dive much deeper in singing jazz.