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Performance Playground

This worksheet can be downloaded and printed exclusively for personal use. It may not be copied for others or used in a class setting without prior written permission. **Print as many work pages as needed for each of your songs.**

Title: The title of the piece. If this is your own speech or song, then it's the title or topic you give to it.

Composer: The composer(s) of the music.

Author: Name of the author, lyricist, playwright, or librettist (someone who wrote the text for an opera, musical, or long vocal work). This will be your name if you are the author.

Text & Word Stress: Write your text, lyrics, dialogue, or speech.

WS: You will return to this line to underline or highlight the words or small phrases you want to stress. I used to have my students use a separate line to write the words they wanted to stress to see whether they changed the meaning. You can still see it by reading what you highlighted rather than adding another line.

Translation: Word-for-word translation, left in the grammar structure of the language you will be singing or speaking.

Intention: Write the possible hidden meaning from "reading between the lines," the subtext, the purpose of what's being said, and how it could be said. This helps you decide what words or small phrases to stress.

Images: Specific images you come up with in your storyboard to help you express the story and journey.

Emotions: Write out the specific feelings and/or physical sensations behind the dialogue.

Vocal Color (VC) & Style: Write the vocal color and all the stylizing and embellishments you want to use. You do not need an ornament on every word or note. Remember the old saying: just because you can, doesn't mean you should. You want to make sure you have a plan and then practice it. It could mean the difference between ordinary and extraordinary.

Body Language: Yes—you write down your body language, specific movements and gestures, then practice them, so you are not distracted by thoughts of "what do I do with my hands or body now?" during your performance or the delivery of your speech or presentation.

Always use a pencil. This allows you to change your mind as you grow and learn more through your treasure hunting. If you write large, try writing a little smaller so you can. This is your workbook; you are not being graded. Have fun exploring!

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