

DEVELOPING PIANISSIMO

- A vital, resonant pianissimo demands finesse rather than foot-pounds of energy and determination.
- Learn to produce the tone simply, easily and naturally in a smaller “vowel form” (resonating space).
- Fine pianissimo singing demands a steadier and more delicate finesse in control of the breath than does fortissimo. Hold back breath at the waistline.
- Pianissimo should have a definite center of focus and be as ringing and vital as fortissimo.

Practice with “M” and “N” preceding the vowels, humming, light agility exercises, especially staccato, and use the less spacious Ee and Ay vowels. This will equip even the biggest heroic voice with the necessary technique for pianissimo singing.

FOUR BASIC RULES FOR SINGING FORTISSIMO Van A. Christy

- Be sure to drop the jaw loosely and keep a long spacious, free throat feeling.
- Inhale deeply and calmly; avoid nervous, jerky, or inadequate inhalation.
- Maintain a steady feeling of energetic spine stretch, high, quiet chest and a strong sensation of expansive, vigorous breath support around the chest and lower rib line.
- Utilize a generous, free, open throat position and maximum head space resonance.