

# PERSONAL BREATHS

WHY

HOW

WHEN

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- LANGUAGE: not sneak breath
  - LEGIT part of your plan
- Good quality every time – low, tension-free
  - Shoulder lifts and high puffs are inefficient
- That spot is YOURS, use it wisely.
  - Your riser buddy has to pick a different spot

# WHY?

- Chorus plan vs Quartet plan vs personal plan
- Chorus breath plan is not willy-nilly
  - Continuous sound (a cappella vs accompaniment)
  - Story-telling aided by planned long phrases
  - Adds energy to the performance
  - Allows audience release
  - Adds dramatic effect
  - STAGGERED BREATHING allows all that to happen

# WHY ?

- QUARTET PLAN

- Plan is developed together based on breath support of each person.
  - (not synchronized swimming)
- Only one person per part... absence is noticeable... audience comfort
- Different br. spots can be planned for effect e.g. different roles
  - Preparing for hanger in a tag
  - Harmony part echoes lyrics

# WHY ?

- PERSONAL BREATHS – in CHORUS LIFE:
- Individual levels –
  - Experience - knowledge –
    - vocal skill is a lifelong journey
  - Stamina – fitness, health
  - Focus – life interference
  - Commitment: semi-professional vs weekly rehearsal survival
  - COVID 19 vs Pre-COVID....

# HOW ?

- INVISIBLE
  - SHOULDERS UNINVOLVED
  - TENSION-FREE
  
- SILENT
  - STEALTH BREATHING, NINJA BREATH
  - FADE OUT, FADE BACK IN.... ACCURATELY
  - OPEN THROAT TO ALLOW AIR IN

# HOW ?

- NEED HELP? Identify what you need.
  - Allowing air IN
  - Managing air OUT
  - FREEDOM FROM TENSION

# WHEN ?

DOs and DON'Ts WHEN MAKING YOUR PLAN

RULES OF THUMB to consider what might work for you

BE FLEXIBLE with your plan but BREATHE ON PURPOSE  
(just as you SING on purpose)

# Great Opportunities in Ballad vs Uptune:

- LEAVE OUT a syllable or two in long, wordy or fast phrases
  - Choose to omit an unimportant lyric
- Breathe DURING held syllable
- Be mindful of what other parts are doing. i.e. different lyrics or breaths

# NO BREATH ZONES

- NB before LAST word or syllable of the line, especially end of song
- NB in middle of phrase, even if there is a comma in the lyrics
- NB in middle of key change
- \*\*\*\* NB BETWEEN words, syllables or notes.
  - SYNCH will be affected!
- If your note is important in the chord, BE THERE! (not a time for a breath)
- If a different part breathes to sing an echo while you are holding, choose NOT to breathe when they are.
- If possible, avoid omitting the downbeat.

# LET'S SING!!!

- A B C's in continuous loop "W X Y and Z A B C D..."
  - NO BREATH between P and Q
  - Clap and sing the letter on every downbeat.

## LET'S SING #2

- NO chorus breath at the end of any line.
- You are my SUNshine, my only SUNshine,  
You make me HAppy when skies are GREY,  
You'll never KNOW, Dear, how much I LOVE you  
Please don't TAKE my sunshine aWAY
- Sing it again, *SING EVERY DOWNBEAT*



Be  
Someone's  
Sunshine  
When Their  
Skies Are  
Gray

# LET'S SING #3

- 5 4 3 4 3 2 3 2 7 1...
- SO Fa Mi FA Mi Re MI Re Ti DOH...
- You .... and I..... ..... to- ge- ther a---- part!

