



Table of Contents

Preface: Diction, a Gateway to Artistic Singing 4

Part I: Introduction

| | |
|--|----|
| Chapter 1: Phonetic Concepts | 5 |
| Diction related concepts | 6 |
| Orthography related concepts | 7 |
| Syllable related concepts | 8 |
| Vowel related concepts | 8 |
| Diphthong related concepts | 10 |
| Consonant related concepts | 11 |
| | |
| Chapter 2: The German Language | 13 |
| Germanic languages and German dialects, | 14 |
| German for the stage | 15 |
| Loan words | 16 |
| | |
| Chapter 3: Characteristic Patterns and Sounds in German | 17 |
| What makes German sound German? | 17 |
| How German words are formed — Grammatical endings | 19 |
| How German words are formed — Compound words | 20 |
| Syllabication for singers | 20 |
| Syllabication of simple words | 21 |
| Syllable separation before vowels | 23 |
| Do you have to make a glottal stop? | 23 |
| Common prefixes and suffixes | 24 |
| | |
| Chapter 4: Long and Short Vowels | 27 |
| What is vowel length? | 27 |
| How vowel length works in German | 28 |
| Why must singers understand vowel length | 29 |
| Vowel quality, vowel length and syllabic stress | 30 |
| Learning to understand vowel length and spelling | 31 |
| How spelling indicates vowel length | 32 |
| Problem areas related to vowel length | 33 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Part 2: The Sounds of German | 34 |
| Chapter 5: Individual Vowel Sounds | 35 |
| Bright vowels: [i: ɪ e: ε] | 36 |
| Central vowels [ɑ: a ə] | 43 |
| Dark vowels: [u: ʊ o: ɔ] | 47 |
| Mixed vowels: [y: ʏ ø: œ] | 53 |
| French nasalized vowels in German | 59 |
| Non-syllabic vowels | 60 |
| Further consideration of the schwa [ə] | 61 |
| Chapter 6: Individual diphthongs | 63 |
| Three German diphthongs | 64 |
| About German dictionaries | 66 |
| Other vowel sequences | 66 |
| Chapter 7: Individual Consonants | 67 |
| Nasal consonants [m n ŋ] | 70 |
| The lateral consonant [l] | 76 |
| The trill consonant [r r̄] | 78 |
| Stop consonants [p b t d k g] | 79 |
| Fricative consonants [f v s z ʃ ʒ ç ʝ x h] | 88 |
| An affricate [tʃ] | 102 |
| Allophones of R to avoid | 103 |
| An alternative pronunciation of ER? | 104 |
| Some thoughts about CH sounds | 104 |
| Chapter 8: German Diction in Musical Context | 105 |
| The role of stress and unstress | 107 |
| Practicing words with mixed vowels | 108 |
| Rhyming with mixed vowels | 109 |
| Adjusting consonants for singing | 109 |
| Singing doubled consonants | 110 |
| A final checklist | 111 |
| In closing | 112 |
| Part 3: Supplements | |
| Alphabetical Key | 113 |
| German Folksongs | 116 |
| Bibliography | 124 |
| Complete IPA chart (for all human languages) | 125 |
| Index | 126 |
| Phonemes of German | 128 |