Improving Scat Singing Skills during Vocal Jazz Studies

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A vocalist is not only a presenter of melody and lyrics, but also an active participant in the further musical process. In order for this interaction to be creative and convincing, it is necessary for the singer to acquire the syllabic language used in jazz but which has no literary meaning, this is called scat.
Jazz vocalists who rarely or never utilize *scat* singing (*Billy Holiday* and *Frank Sinatra*, *Diana Krall*)

A popular belief is that recordings without scatting are commercially more successful.

Jazz music does not lack excellent *scat* singers who demonstrate their skill at every concert and in recordings.
For the student to become a master, their baggage must contain four critical elements. Firstly – an important factor is, a good musical ear, as well as having a good command of their vocal technique, must have a good knowledge of music theory, and, of course, the desire to practice, a lot. (Miller, 2004).
Creativity in the music world is very important. Without it, there is no music. Self-expression begins with understanding the self (Evans, 1994).
In order for skills to develop, it is necessary to leave the comfort zone and take on risk, but not to the point of panic.
Good *scat* improvisation is formed if it is based on these criteria:

- Rhythmic concept.
- Melodic concept.
- Harmonic concept.
The first and most important is the choice of syllabic vowel usage.

For rhythmic exercises, a recommended starting speed and tempo that which you should come to is indicated.

The melodic concept is created by varying the melody, which is the easiest way for beginners.

The ability to hear chord changes and alterations is a key factor in the jazz vocalist’s quality of improvisation.
Results

- A positive atmosphere will serve as a psychological support for beginners, freeing them from the fear of making mistakes! Scat acquisition is based on an analytical mind and its functioning is not possible without a prior knowledge base and general experience.
Conclusions

- Regular work extends the comfort zone, enabling the unrestrained use of *scat* technique and the undertaking of risk of spontaneous music playing.
Thank you!

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