

ACTOR/SINGER TERMINOLOGY

VIBRATO – a natural vibrating or shaking effect in singing or playing a musical instrument, made by rapid, slight changes in pitch

CRESCENDO – a slow steady increase in volume of music or singing

DIMINUENDO – a slow steady decrease in volume of music or singing

FORTISSIMO – means very loudly (in this case a musical dynamic in relation to the volume music is played or sung)

MELISMA – a group of notes sung to one syllable of text

A CAPELLA – singing with no musical backing or accompaniment

RECITATIVE – a passage music normally in an opera or oratorio that is sung in the rhythm of ordinary speech with many words on the same note

HEAD VOICE & CHEST VOICE

1. The main difference between head voice and chest voice is the area of resonance of the sound. When singing in head voice the vibration is felt in the upper half of the face. Whereas when using chest voice the vibrations are in and around the lower neck and sternum.
2. Generally, but not always head voice is associated with light, bright tones. For example, early musical theatre or what is considered classical legit or opera. Chest voice is normally linked to deep, thick, and rich tones for example more modern musical theatre or pop music.
3. Head voice produces sound which is higher in pitch whereas chest voice produces sound which is lower in pitch (Belting however being the exception to the rule)