

Chapter 2 – Vocal Performance

3. Vocal Performance: Your voice is what most people pay attention to. Even musicians. A chord progression, hook, lead fill, or even the perfect lyrics mean nothing if your vocal performance and delivery isn't complimentary to your song. However, you don't have to be an amazing singer to deliver the right sound. Bob Dylan, Tom Petty, Tom Waits, Kurt Cobain, and even Mick Jagger aren't known for their vocal abilities. Instead they're known for the performance abilities. There's just something 'right' about how they sound. Of course Freddie Mercury, Steven Tyler, Robert Plant, and Steve Perry ARE known for their vocal ability. Which category do you fall in? If you don't know now, you will by the end of this chapter!

a. Tone vs. Depth - There is a huge difference between these two elements. An example of 'tone' could be the way that Tom Waits growls with such a tenacity that you're almost afraid of what he's going to say next. Another example could be the way that Bob Dylan rarely changes his vocal delivery. It's usually right at a certain level. Depth however deals with several layers of vocality in the way that Steven Tyler or Freddie Mercury use octaves to present their sound. This tutorial will show you how to bring in the highs and lows within depth, or keep the same tone throughout a song to create dynamics.

b. Harnessing Your Delivery - Too much tone and depth can lead to confusion with your audience. In order to harness this delivery, you'll need to learn how your natural voice works. While you might not be a huge fan of Dave Matthews or Thom Yorke from Radiohead, these two performers have proven time and time again that they know how to harness their sound in a way that their audience almost knows when they'll be hitting the high notes or droning out the low notes. Knowing the difference between tone and depth means nothing if you can't control it.

c. Overcoming The Fear - The second before you begin your vocals, an overwhelming sense of fear takes control. The very first note you sing is just as crucial as the very last note. You know how you want to sing the phrase, but something internal 'locks up' and you feel completely out of your element. Just a few simple tricks will completely alleviate this frustration!

d. Understanding Your Limitations - We all have limits, but we may not know exactly what they are. The key to understanding your limitations is realizing that you are unique in your ability in the same way the pros are. The best performers in the world know when to push forward and when to pull back. After this tutorial you'll know when to limit your vocal performance and when to let it shine. You'll be able to take your limitations and USE them to create the perfect atmosphere for your listener.