

Steps to learning a piece:

1. **Read the words.** What do they say? What do they mean?
 - If there are any words you don't know, look them up.
 - When practicing say these words as a monologue and write them down to memorize.

 - If you are singing in another language, write in the IPA (international Phonetic Alphabet) transcriptions to help pronounce it.
 - Translate your foreign language to English word for word and poetically.
2. **Look at the context of the song you are singing.**
 - Is it from a musical, movie, or opera? If so, what happened in the show and why is the character singing this?
 - Research the poet and composer.
3. **Clap the rhythm of the piece or speak it on one note.**
4. **Familiarize yourself with the song by playing it on the piano and listening to recordings while looking at the music.**
 - Note the dynamic markings and other important aspects of the score.
 - Mark parts that are rhythmically or melodically challenging. (tricky rhythms, big jumps)
 - Mark what breaths you are going to take.
 - Listen to multiple recordings with reputable singers.
5. **Listen to just the piano part** and memorize how it goes.
 - Notice how it interacts with the voice.
 - Does it go with the voice part? Or is it saying something different?
6. **Sing the piece on "La" or another vowel (no words.)**
7. **When rhythms and pitches are comfortable, sing with words.**

Important questions to ask:

Who are you singing to?

Why is your character singing this?

What does each phrase (musical sentence) mean? What is your intention for each phrase?

-Write down the subtext or a word to describe how the character feels/ wants to effect the person they are addressing when singing the phrase.

What are you thinking in interludes (when you are not singing) or before and after the song starts?

What do I practice?

Don't always sing the entire piece or in the spots you are good at. Break it into chunks starting from the tricky spots.

Look for patterns in the music that will help you memorize it quickly.

Do not just listen to one recording. Try to listen to multiple examples from reputable singers. (Ask me if you need recommendations)