

ENGLISH ACCENTS IN MUSIC

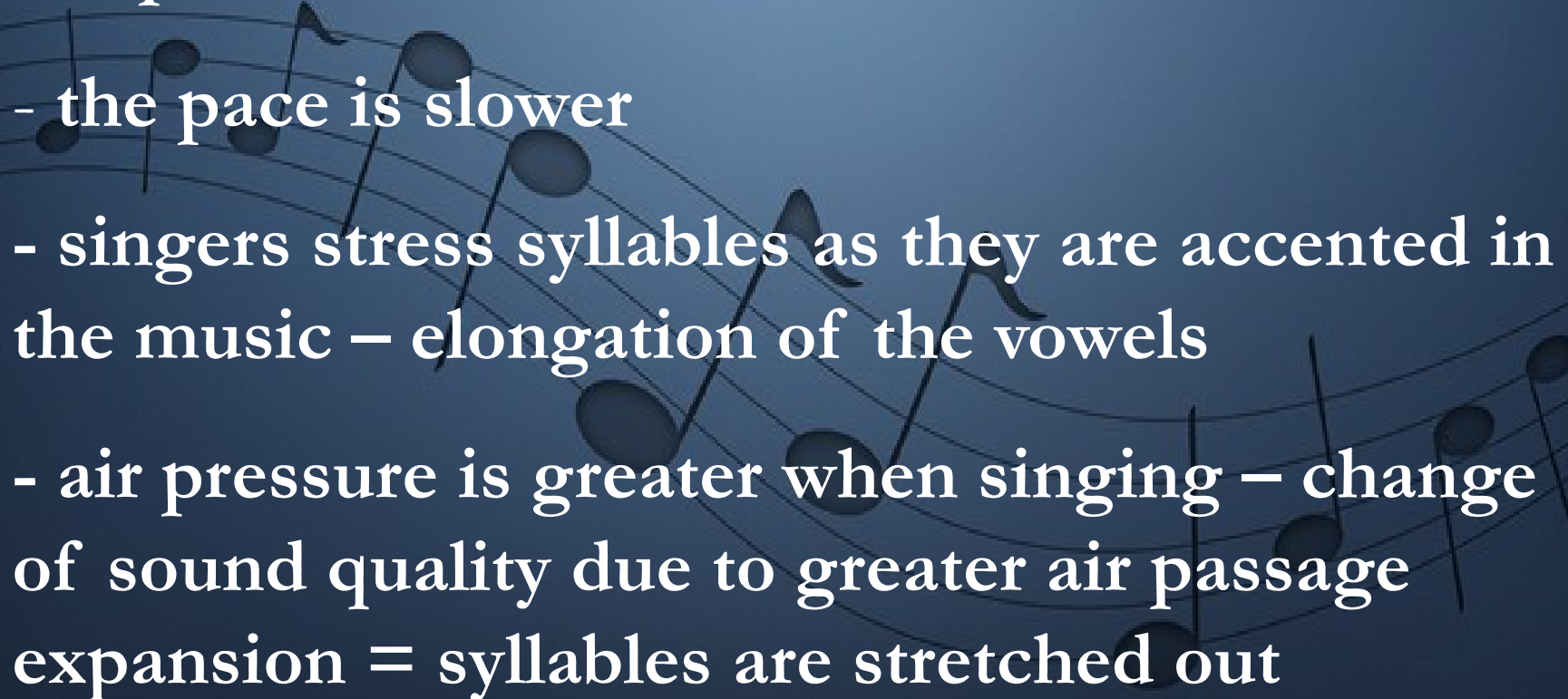
**Monika
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- most singers sing with an American accent no matter with which accent they are speaking
- generic American accent is seen in music as fairly neutral

Intonation is superseded by melody, vowel length by the duration of each note, and vocal cadences by a song's rhythm.

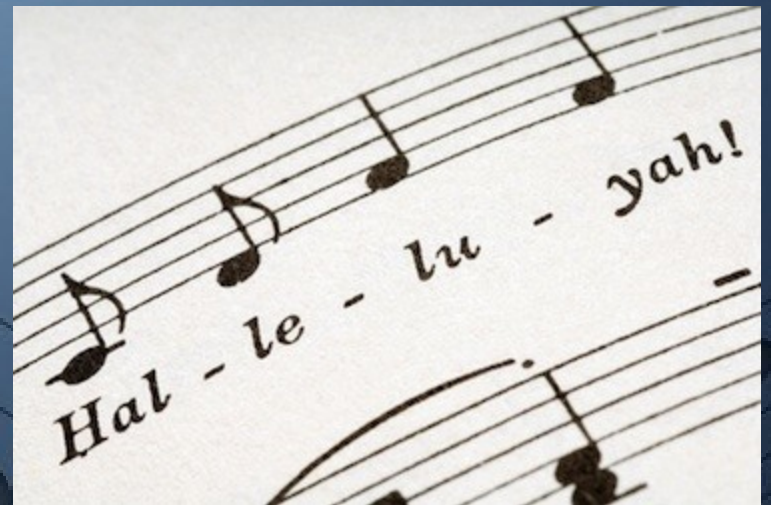


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- A decorative background element consisting of a musical staff with several notes and stems, rendered in a light blue color against the dark blue background. The notes are positioned behind the text, creating a subtle musical theme.
- song s melody cancels out the intonations of speech
 - the beat of the music cancels out the rhythm of speech
 - the pace is slower
 - singers stress syllables as they are accented in the music – elongation of the vowels
 - air pressure is greater when singing – change of sound quality due to greater air passage expansion = syllables are stretched out

Suprasegmental features are lost, qualities such as stress, tone and intonation, adding also the loss of syllabification.

The division of words into syllables, either in speech or in writing.

- At the end of a line, a word is separated in writing into parts conventionally called "syllables" if it does not fit and if moving it to the next line would make the first line much shorter than the others.



“It is true that the spoken word varies considerably, as the many dialects which are found among the English-speaking nations will prove. It is equally true to say that *language, in song, has been **standardized*** to such an extent that it has become universal and homogeneous. It follows naturally that when words and music are allied, the former must be pronounced in such a way as to conform with the accepted principles of good singing.”

Music Educators Journal

Andy Gibson, a New Zealand researcher at AUT's University Institute of Culture, Discourse & Communication:

A 2010 study he conducted of singers with speaking accents showed indeed that they were not aware that they sounded any different; they felt they were singing naturally.



Sometimes Brits attempting to sing in an American style went overboard with the Rs, as did Paul McCartney in his cover of “Till There Was You,” pronouncing saw more like **sawr**.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mr5gCdUXJQY>

Vowel sounds and rhoticity are very important in conveying accent in a song.

Linguist Peter Trudgill tracked rhoticity in British rock music over the years and found that the Beatles' pronunciation of Rs decreased over the course of the 1960s, settling into a trans-Atlantic sound that incorporated aspects of both British and American dialects.



Contemporary singers continue to adopt various accents according to their genre; Keith Urban, who is Australian, sings country music with a marked American Southern accent.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIFEJ-Ctpjc>

British singers have to make deliberate effort to sound British.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFZGeu_Y_z8

It is unusual for a singer to hold a regional accent through an entire song, resulting in what he calls ‘mixed accents’ for most.

David Crystal



Janet Devlin from Northern Ireland

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rU8-LXSKpsc>

Sources:

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<http://www.buzzfeed.com/jessicamisener/why-dont-british-singers-have-british-accent-when-they-sing>

http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/explainer/2012/11/skyfall_theme_song_by_adele_why_do_british_singers_sound_american.html

<http://www.grammarphobia.com/blog/2012/08/accent.html>

<https://uk.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20100629055035AAGKiao>
-which groups are by some considered to sing with British accent

Rap Song in 12 Different Accents

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYcjMEg1Pm8>

Why We can't Hear A British Accent When British Singers Sing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4x-nm-Aj34I>