

Sing With Color

ICDA 2026 Summer Conference

Dr. Kerry Glann, Ball State University

kglann@bsu.edu

Goals:

- Timbre matching
- Consistent resonance
- Least amount of movement between vowels
- Avoid
 - a note sticking out due to pitch level &/or vowel choice
 - thinness of tone
 - tension in voice

Descriptions:

- All vowels inside the same “sleeve of sound”
- Vowel channel
- Sing through (narrow) goalposts
- “Protect” the sound

Techniques:

- Expand up (and slightly back) when opening vowel
- Narrower and taller in ascent
- Avoid overworking between vowels
 - finger on chin
 - fingers at corners (“goalposts”)
- Color one vowel with another
- *Vowel modification

Some “Standard” Modifications:

- [i] toward [I]
- [u] toward [U]
- “ay” toward [e] or [i]
- [a] toward [ɔ] or [U]
- Tenors (and baritones/basses) – close vowels higher
- Basses – possibly open vowels at bottom of range

Other Tools:

- Breathe through the desired vowel shape
- Energize / lengthen onset consonants
- Put consonant inside the vowel channel
- “Oo” phrase process
- Sing only vowel stream
- Address vocal registration
- “Problem” note – back up a note or two?

Exercises for Vowel Transitions

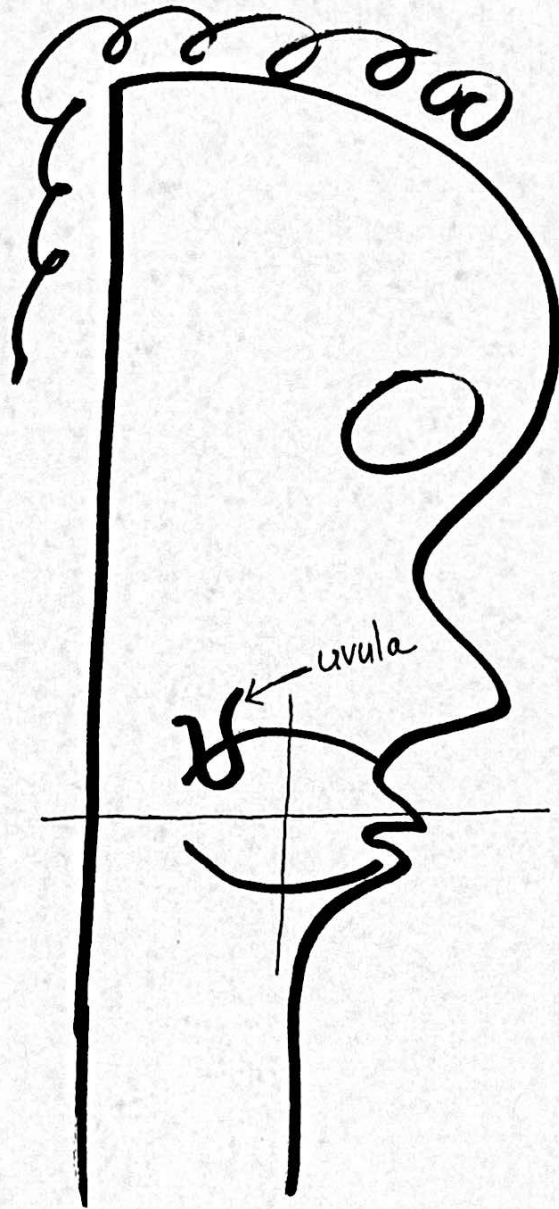
[u] — [o] — [a] —

[a] — [o] [u] — [o] [a] [u] — [o] [a] — [o] [u]

[i] — [I] — [a] —
[u] — [u] — [a] —

lu — [o] [a]

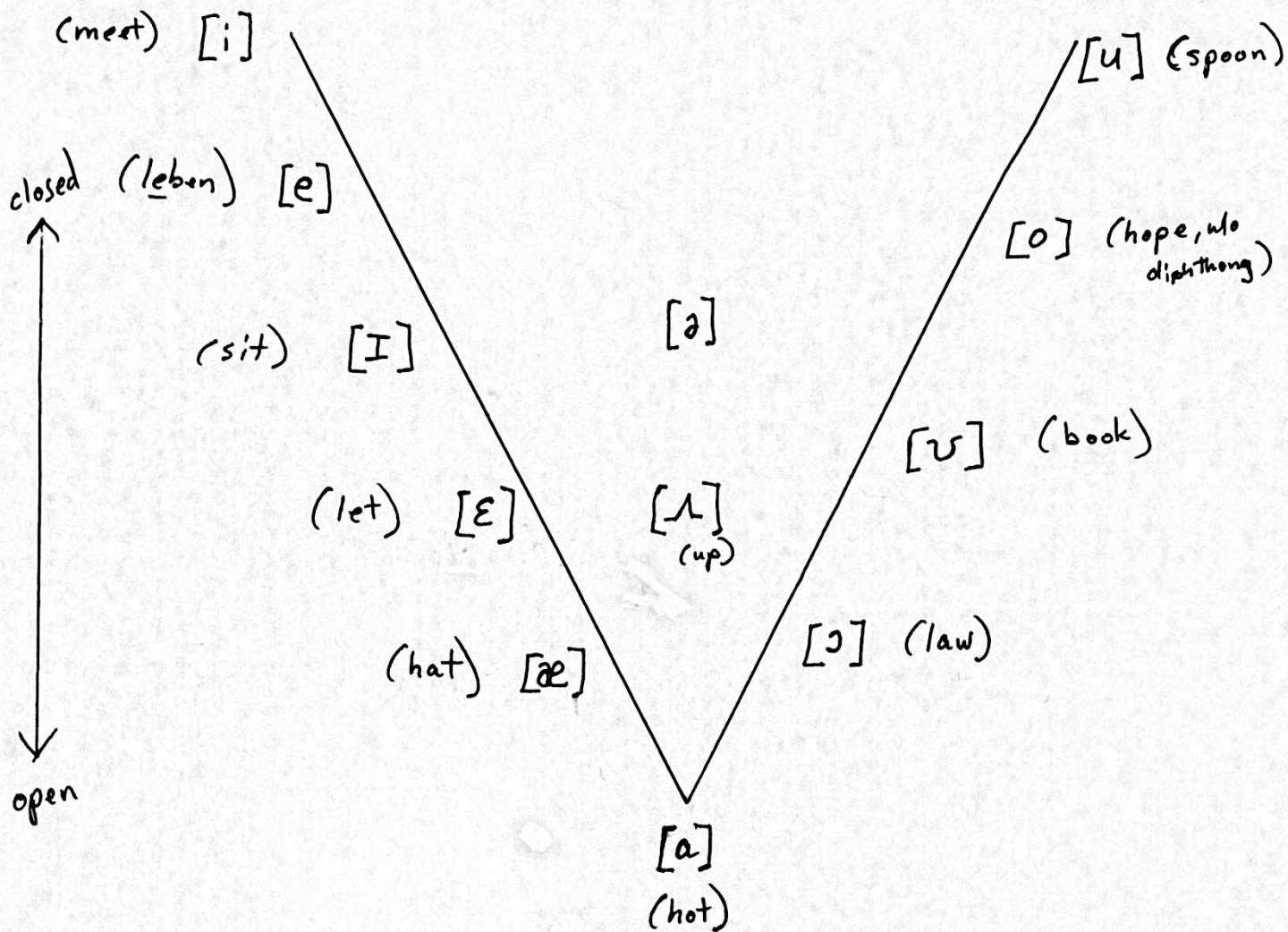
[a] a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a



Vowel Triangle

Tongue

Lips



Parts

Till we meet, till we meet, Till we

Musical score for the first system. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo marking is *Mm*. The lyrics "Till we meet, till we meet, Till we" are written above the vocal line. The piano accompaniment includes a section marked *8va* in the right hand.

meet at Je - sus' feet;

Till we meet, till we

Musical score for the second system. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has four flats and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics "meet at Je - sus' feet; Till we meet, till we" are written above the vocal line. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar texture to the first system.

S-128-4

Smoothly, tenderly $\text{♩} = 58-60$

Musical score for the third system, labeled "Soprano and Alto". The tempo is *mp unis.* and the key signature has two sharps (F-sharp, C-sharp). The lyrics "1. O Shen-an-do', I long to see you, And hear your rol-ling" are written below the staff. The phrase "poco" is written above the staff.

Musical score for the fourth system. The lyrics "riv-er, O Shen-an-do', I long to see you, 'Way," are written below the staff. The dynamic markings *piu f* and *meno f* are present above the staff.

Musical score for the fifth system. The lyrics "we're bound a - way, A - cross the wide Mis -" are written below the staff.

25

T *mp* The late year lies—

B *mp* The late year lies—

Ped.

28 (no breath)

down the north, All is healed, all is health. High

down the north, All is healed, all is health. High

Ped.

60 *pp*

dream - less bed, The long day clo - - - ses.

pp

to the dream - less bed, The long day clo - - - ses.

pp

to the dream - less bed, The long day clo - - - ses.

pp

to the dream - less bed, The long day clo - - - ses.