

HOW TO APPROACH A NEW SONG

Sugarman Vocal Studio

www.ardensugarman.com

- 1) Clap the rhythm of the entire song **below tempo**, using a metronome. Repeat until rhythm is perfect and you are entirely comfortable with all rhythmic values.
- 2) Transcribe text into IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) symbols and speak until perfected. If not in native tongue, translate text, word-by-word. (Arden can provide IPA transcriptions of most songs- just ask.)
- 3) Read through the text as if a monologue, poem or prose. Read text dramatically, with intention and attention to meaning. Repeat until comfortable.
- 4) Speak through the text, in rhythm, using a metronome until rhythmic values are perfected.
- 5) Sing the intervals of the song using solfège syllables, or play the melody on another instrument.
- 6) Begin to put melody/rhythm/text together, under tempo, gradually increasing tempo, as comfortable.
- 7) Add dynamics and interpretive, dramatic, nuanced performance elements.