

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Carrie Kahler, WSMTA Administrative Coordinator

VOICE SYLLABUS

LEVELS X - XII

Sponsored and Issued by

THE WASHINGTON STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Approved by the

Washington State Board of Education

January 1966

- THE SOUL OF A SINGER -

Overtones are its colors -

Rhythm is its heart beat.

Resonance is its body -

Vowels the forms it assumes.

Consonants are its hands -

Emotion is its life blood.

Imagination its ears and eyes.

Thought its feet -

Desire its wings -

Melody is its language.

The soul of the singer is the subconscious SELF.

This month's entry comes from the 1966 Voice Syllabus, Levels X-XII. Members of the WSMTA Education Committee (later renamed the Education Board) prepared the syllabus not only for WSMTA teachers, but also for Applied Music Teachers statewide seeking high school credit for their students.

Louis Bruno, the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction, wrote the forward noting that the syllabus established "high standards of attainment" and that the course should be studied "thoroughly."

Carolyn O. James and Esther Ford Hammer of the WSMTA wrote in their preface: "It is our sincere

hope that this outline and guide for the voice teacher will be helpful and instructive not only to those administering credit but to all who meet the challenge of guiding youth in the development of a musical and expressive voice."

The syllabus itself contains a semester-by-semester outline of skills and goals, repertoire suggestions for Soprano, Contralto, Tenor, Baritone, and Bass, and theory requirements. Before the Forward, the Preface, and the Repertoire suggestions, however, the WSMTA included this poem to remind teachers of those intangible, ineffable musical qualities which cannot be graded, but thrill singer and audience alike.