

# Singing for Instrumentalists

*Laura Williams*

*VAPA Department Choral Resource Teacher*



# Objectives:

*Breathe and produce sound with proper singing technique **(HOW)***

*Practice sight-singing and integration of singing into orchestral repertoire **(WHY)***



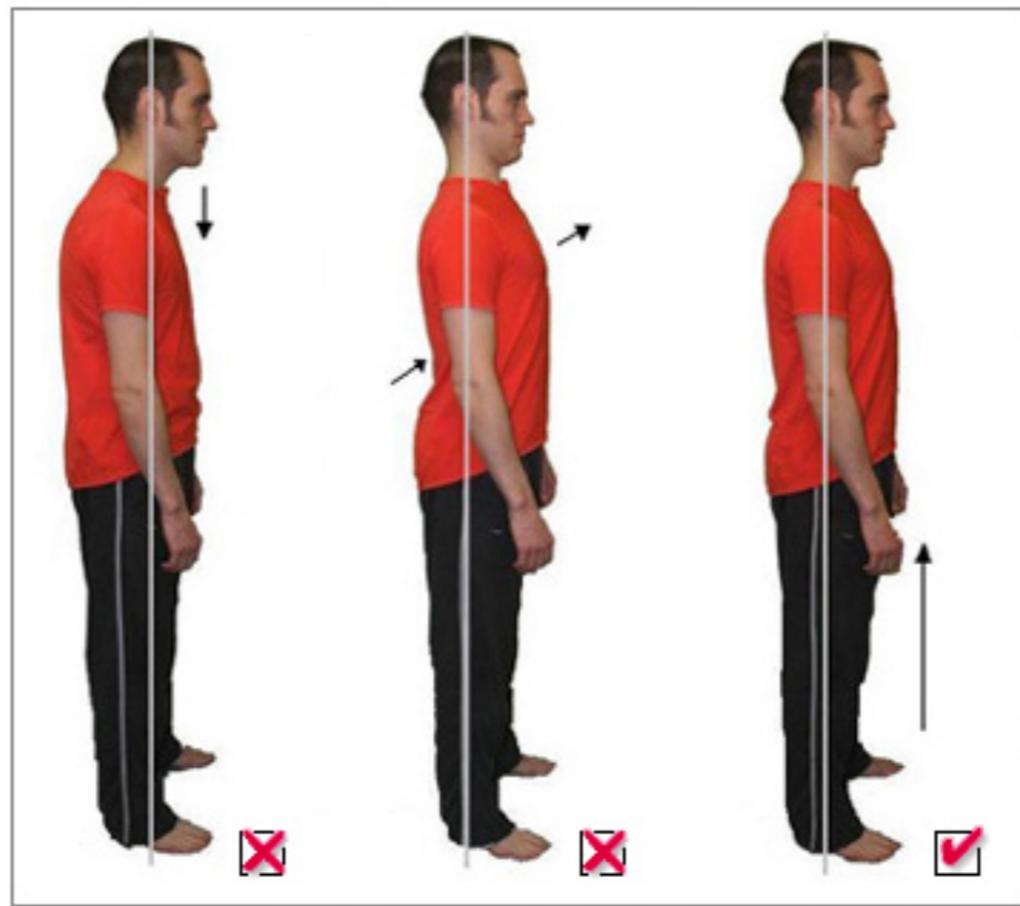
# Why Singing?

- Singing makes you a better instrumentalist, just like playing an instrument makes for better vocalists (*spoken as a choir teacher who is first and foremost a pianist!*)
- It improves your ‘ear’ (listening skills or audiation), thereby improving your intonation and tuning ability
- It engages multiple parts of your brain during rehearsal
- David Loberg Code from the Western Michigan University School of Music: “Aural skills... enable students to understand what they hear, to hear what they see, to make corrections, and to better internalize music.”



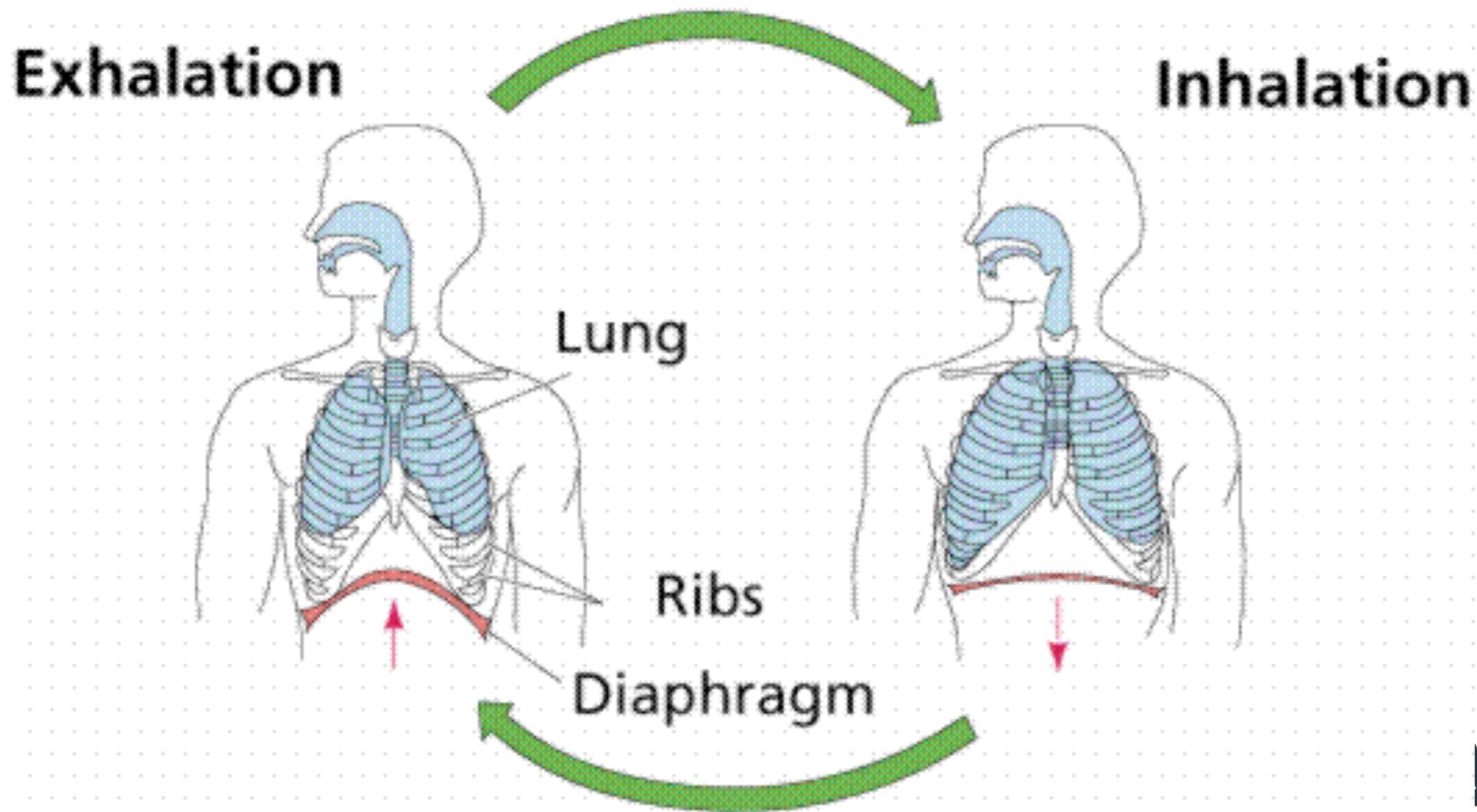
# Intro to Breathing

- Alert, aligned, confident posture
  - Eliminate tension (stretch)
  - Set your feet and let everything else follow
  - When you sit, keep everything above the hips the same



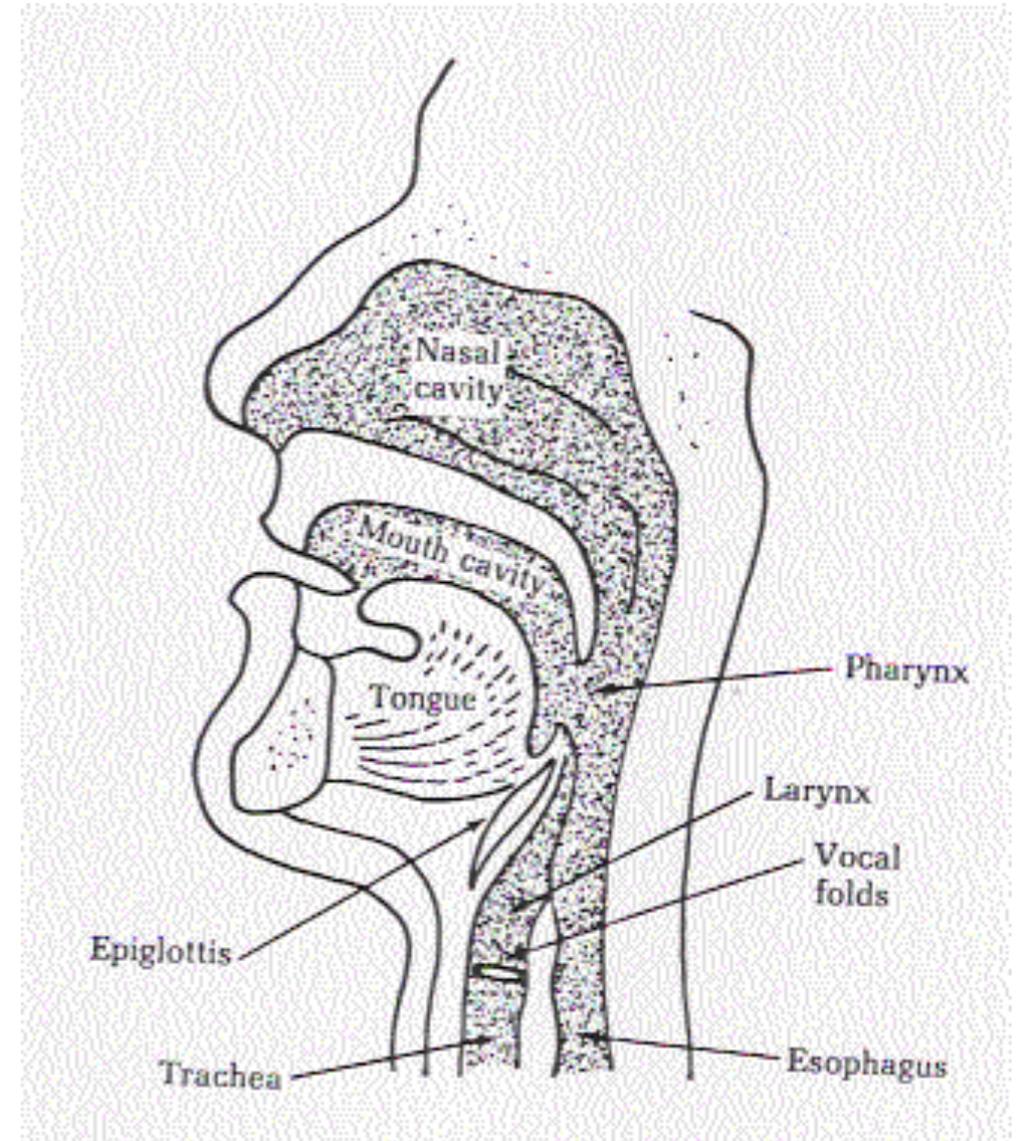
# Intro to Breathing

- Breathing = Expansion
  - Breathe low and keep your shoulders down



# Intro to Phonation

- Vocal cords/folds vibrate
- Air controls volume
- Everything else is.....
  - **resonance** (echo in mouth and nasal cavity) = **tone**
  - **articulation** (creating consonants/vowels using the tongue, lips, jaw, and teeth) = **words**



# Things to Remember

- Your voice is your voice... everyone's is different, and that's a good thing!
- You will have a preferred range (high-middle-low), but with practice, your range will stretch just like any muscle
  - Sing without strain, even when stretching
- If you don't like the way your voice sounds (tone or timbre), change the resonance
- If you can match pitch on your instrument, you can match pitch with your voice - it's just control



# Bach Chorale

- Predict issues
- Play through
- Fix issues through singing
- Sing for pitch accuracy, rhythm accuracy, and tone like your instrument using the syllable “da”

# Reflection

- Why is singing useful to the instrumentalist?
- What is something new you learned?
- How do you think you will use this skill in the future?

