

Ecclesiastical Latin Diction: Locus Iste

Objective:

Given a demonstration and modelling of correct Ecclesiastical Latin vowel pronunciation, and guided practice opportunities, the student will demonstrate the ability to apply principles of Latin vowels for choral singing, as assessed by the teacher in a written test where the student will write out the Waring Tone phonetic spelling of the first line of text of “Locus Iste” by Bruckner with every correct vowel spelling being worth 1 point for a total of 10 points. (Percentage)

Equipment & Resources:

- Teacher will need a piano/pitch pipe to get “do” and/or starting pitch
- Copy of the Latin Pronunciation Guide document
- Copy of the Waring Tones Phonetic Spelling of the first line of Locus Iste
- Score for “Locus Iste” by Bruckner (Choral Public Domain Library)
https://www.cpd.org/wiki/images/9/94/Locus_Iste_rev.pdf
- Paper and pencil for phonetic spelling assessment
- Chair with no arms, suitable for singing

Methodology:

AS Teacher (T.) will guide students (Ss.) through the five hand gestures for the five pure vowels.

I T. then explains that this class will include learning the proper Ecclesiastical Latin vowel pronunciation (the five pure vowels just explored) so that they are able to sing through “Locus Iste” by Bruckner.

M T. distributes the Ecclesiastical Latin Pronunciation Guide document to Ss. T. asks students how many vowel sounds there are in Latin and then models them to Ss.

GP Ss. are asked to repeat each vowel’s pronunciation and examples after T. models it. T. provides feedback as needed.

M T. distributes the Waring Tones Phonetic Spelling of “Locus Iste” to Ss. T. goes through the pronunciation and diction of the first line of “Locus Iste”.

GP Ss. are asked to repeat each word back after T. models it. T. explains that the consonants in this particular line are no different than how they are pronounced in English diction. T. provides feedback as needed.

M T. models the pronunciation and diction of the first 12 measures of the soprano line of “Locus Iste” in rhythm. *NB: for this lesson, everyone will be singing the soprano line, but in their own octave.* T. will break down modelling into three individual, four measure sections.

GP Ss. are asked to repeat each section back. T. monitors for correctness and makes suggestions as needed. Once secure, T. and Ss. will go through all 12 measures once altogether in rhythm.

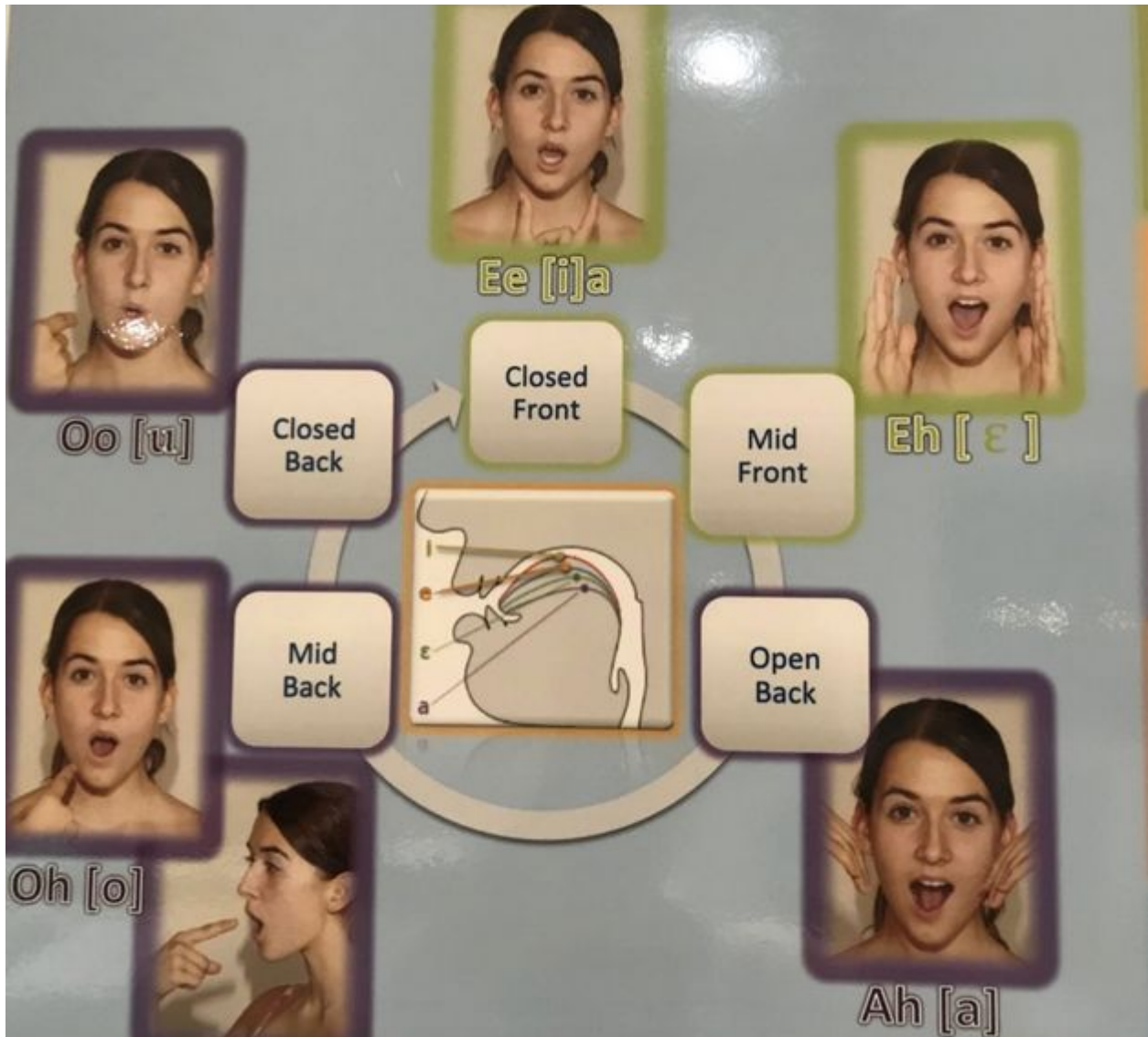
M&GP T. repeats the same process, but this time in rhythm and on pitch.

IP Ss. given time to practice the first 12 measures of the soprano line of “Locus Iste”. T. monitors for correctness and offers feedback where appropriate.

A Ss. are given 5 minutes to write out the Waring Tone phonetic spelling of the first line of text of “Locus Iste” by Bruckner with no help from notes or class resources. Every correct vowel spelling will be worth 1 point for a total of 10 points. Grading of student accomplishment of the instructional objective of this lesson is done on a percentage basis (a mark out of 10).

C Ss. are congratulated on their efforts and progress, given suggestions of what aspects of Ecclesiastical Latin vowels they may need to continue working on, and feedback on what they did well. Class concludes by answering any lingering questions students may have. If time allows, T. and Ss. will sing through the first 12 measures of the soprano line together.

Hand Gestures for 5 Pure Vowels



Ecclesiastical Latin Pronunciation Guide

SUNG ECCLESIASTICAL LATIN (ROMAN) PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Vowels	Pronunciation	Examples
a = ah	as in father	ad, mater
e = eh	as in met	te, video
i = ee	as in machine, feet	in, qui
o = aw	as in bought	gloria, omnis
u = oo	as in tutor, coo	cum, summus
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Two Vowels Together	Pronunciation	Examples
ae = eh	as in met	prae, illae
oe = eh	as in met	coelum, coepi
au = ah and oo	two distinct syllables	aut, lauda
eu = eh and oo	two distinct syllables	euge
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Consonants	Pronunciation	Examples
c (before e,i, ae, oe)	as ch in church	certus, cibus
ch=k	as in ache	Christus
g (before e ,i, ae, oe)	soft, as in gentle	gens, agit
g (before other letters)	hard, as in go	gratis, glo
gn	ny as in canyon	angnus, ignis
h	silent	except h sounds as k in mihi, nihil
j (or consonant i)	as y in yes	Jesus, Justus
r	slightly rolled on the tongue	carnis
s	as s in sing (never z as in raise)	miser, fides
sc (before a, o, u or a consonant)	as sc in scope	scutum, Pascha
sc (before e, i, oe, ae, and i)	as sh in shall	descendit, scio
th	as t in ten	Thomas
ti (when followed by a vowel and preceded by any letter except s, t, or x)	as tsee	bratia, etiam
x (in words beginning ex- and followed by a vowel, h, or s)	as ks	exaudi, pax
xc (before e, ae, oe, i)	as ksh	excelsis =ekshelsees
z	as dz	zizania

in = een; *excelsis* = ekshelsees; *Deo* = Deh-aw; *hominibus* = awmeeneeboos; *te* = teh; *Jesu* = Yeh-soo

Waring Tones Phonetic Spelling of “Locus Iste”

Latin Text

Locus iste
a Deo factus est

Phonetic Spelling

Loh koooh see steh
ah deh oh fah ktoooh sehst

English Translation: This place was made by God

Score excerpt - “Locus Iste” by Bruckner

Locus Iste

Allegro moderato ♩=92

Bruckner (1869)

p Lo - cus i - ste a De - o fa - ctus est, *mf* lo - cus i - ste a De - o fa - ctus est, *f*
 Lo - cus i - ste a De - o fa - ctus est, lo - cus i - ste a De - o fa - ctus est,
 Lo - cus i - ste a De - o fa - ctus est, lo - cus i - ste *f* a De - o fa - ctus est, *p*
 Lo - cus i - ste a De - o fa - ctus est, lo - cus i - ste a De - o fa - ctus est, a

p a De - o, De - o fa - ctus est *f* in - ae - sti - ma - bi - le sa - era - men - tum
 a De - o, De - o fa - ctus est in - ae - sti - ma - bi - le sa - era - men - tum
 a De - o, De - o fa - ctus est in - ae - sti - ma - bi - le sa - era - men - tum
 De - o, De - o fa - ctus est *f* in - ae - sti - ma - bi - le sa - era - men - tum, *ff* in - ae - sti -