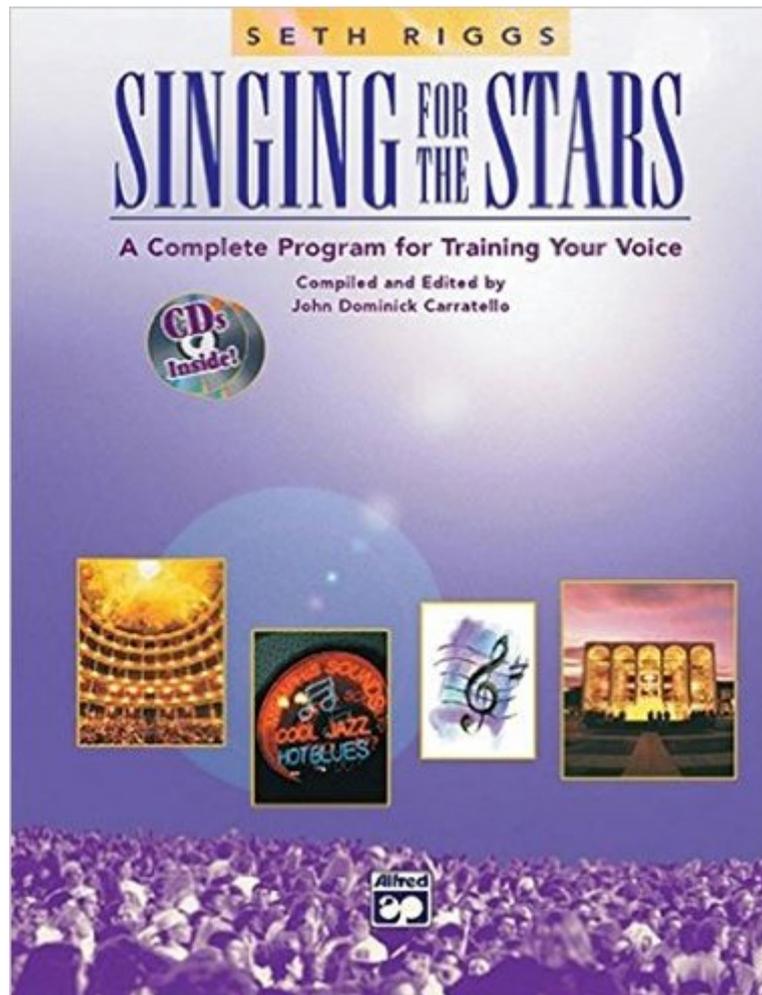


The book was found

Singing For The Stars: A Complete Program For Training Your Voice (Book & 2 CD's)



Synopsis

What do Michael Jackson, Anita Baker, Natalie Cole and hundreds of other professionals have in common? They have all studied voice with Hollywood's leading vocal coach, Seth Riggs. You can learn to sing like the pros with this complete program for training the voice.

Book Information

Paperback: 96 pages

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Customer Reviews

The principles behind this book use exercises which educate you to sing without the larynx rising up which actually interferes with good singing, and to sing with a connected voice from chest voice into head voice, without breaking into falsetto. The content is good, though too much space is given to testimonials, and more space should be given to explanation and theory. The CD's are very well laid out with instructions from the author, a singer demonstrating the exercises which are on different tracks, which makes it easy to skip to the essential bits. You can practice while driving for example. As I have been getting speech singing vocal training for over a year, I can testify to the value of the method. Unless you are already a well trained singer with good technique, you really should not use this type of course without also getting lessons. A vocal trainer can identify how to improve tone, breathing etc and point out technique errors such as overblow or too much air pressure, which you might never identify by yourself. It is so easy to damage your voice by using incorrect technique or overdoing the exercises. After using this for a few days and then applying the technique to sing along to a recording, I was able to do so without straining and hitting higher notes than usual with much less effort, which was amazing. I am now on my way to a voice that I did not dare to dream was possible. The second CD is more about applying the exercises and producing the

speech level singing tone, and runs through song examples using those passage areas with very useful tips to avoid splattering your sound. For less than the cost of a voice lesson this is a great investment, which I highly recommend.

Having gone through both Brett Manning's "Singing Success" and this course, I must say that this is the better course for the ADVANCED student of speech level singing. As has been noted in previous reviews, the book portion of this course is little more than a fawning, start-studded, tribute to Seth Riggs. There are a few helpful and educational sections, but not enough to provide the uninitiated with any real understanding of the how's and why's of this technique. Granted, the text is very simple and easy to read, but it almost seems like the author wrote it assuming that it's all too simple and easy to possibly NOT understand. In that regard, the book is too simple. The CD's are good; however, not free of flaws. For one, no pitch ranges are given. So unless you know music by ear, you'll never know if you're singing a high C or a middle G. Then there's the problem with the scales only being played ascendingly, thus providing the student with essentially only half an exercise. The sound is also of mixed quality, sounding as though it was recorded with a basic dictation recorder as opposed to a professional studio. The vocal demos are also a bit of a distraction in that the featured singers are classically trained and, as such, have a distinctly operatic delivery. Again, not something the beginning or even intermediate student can identify with. Unless, of course, they are studying Opera, in which case they should be training with a qualified teacher anyhow. The exercises are HARD! This is the part I like about the program. Since I've been working with this course for some years now, I actually found "Singing Success" too easy and unchallenging and sent it back.

When I first saw that term "Speech Level Singing", I didn't think I could learn to develop a strong or powerful voice because the term itself SUGGESTS a technique designed for a thin and easy voice. The truth is that SLS is designed for all singers and all genres from Opera to Pop and all the in between styles as well. So don't judge a technique by its name. The reason I've been using this book is because Billy Purnell recommended it for further study in his program "The Ultimate Voice Training for Singers", also a Speech Level Singing based home-training program. I've occasionally gone back to 'Singing for the Stars' as it's jam-packed with information on the technique and it did help me at times when I felt I was going wrong in the other program. The average singer should be able to get through the first CD within a few weeks (practicing about 4 times a week) once a good effort is made and you understand the "head voice" concept. Your voice will sound like a girl's voice....unless of course you ARE a girl (: in which case it will sound..well, weak and wimpy. You've

got to get used to that and accept it. The second CD is where you are likely to experience some challenges to say the least. You'll feel like you've hit a wall and there's no way around it. I've hit a lot of walls and I've somehow been able to get around them and move on. I'm still hitting them but now I can see the last one or two. This is why I advise a few lessons at this point. It will put a smile back on your face and you'll be nearing your speech level posture as Seth calls it. Even if you keep it a mix of 75% your own home study with the program and 25% lessons, then you're still bound to save a lot of money.

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