

Contents

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Introduction | 5 |
|---------------------|---|

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Acknowledgements | 9 |
|-------------------------|---|

Chapter 1 - Getting Started

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|
| Mirror, Mirror On the Wall ... | .12 |
| Singing for Fun—and for Practice. | .14 |
| Voice Teachers and Vocal Coaches: | |
| Finding Mr. or Ms. Right | .14 |
| To Study or Not to Study: | |
| That is the Question | .15 |
| Vocal Coaches Versus Voice Teachers | .16 |
| Seek and Ye Shall Find | .17 |
| Don't Believe the DVD, Phone | |
| and Skype Hype | .17 |
| Musical Knowledge is Power | .18 |
| What's Good for the Body | |
| is Good for the Voice. | .20 |
| Why Must I Exercise?. | .21 |
| Life Happens, So Let It...But Learn From It | .22 |
| Just Breathe for a Minute, Will Ya? | .22 |
| The Value of Yoga | .23 |
| The Alexander Technique | .23 |
| Meditation | .24 |
| A Word About Sleep | .24 |
| Four Words About Water | .24 |
| Got Milk? | .25 |
| Sing It Loud, Sing It Proud...Sing Out!. | .25 |
| Karaoke 'Til You Drop: | |
| The Perfect Rehearsal Space. | .27 |
| Karaoke at Home | .27 |
| Three Words About Alcohol Consumption | .29 |
| Conquering Shyness and Stage Fright. | .29 |
| Dealing with Anxiety | .30 |
| Do What You Gotta Do | .32 |

Chapter 2 -

Taking It To the Streets

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|
| Your Goals, in the Big Picture | .33 |
| First Things First: The Rehearsal Process | .35 |
| Finding Your Partners in Crime | .36 |
| A Word (Or Four) About Cyberspace. | .36 |
| Open-Mic Nights | .37 |
| Over-Rehearsing | .38 |
| Open-Mic 101 | .38 |
| The Giglet | .41 |
| Paid Giglets | .41 |
| Making Friends with Making Lists | .41 |
| Giglet Press Kits and EPKs | .42 |
| Your Cover Sheet | .42 |
| Your Photo. | .43 |
| Your Songs | .43 |
| Recording Your Songs the Nice, Easy Way | .43 |
| To Click Track, or Not to Click Track: | |
| That is the Question | .44 |
| The Day Of Your Session | .45 |

| | |
|----------------------------------------|-----|
| Producing Your Music Tracks | .45 |
| Recording Your Vocals | .45 |
| Sixteen Words About Cell Phones | .46 |
| Microphone Dynamics and Setting Levels | .46 |
| Headphones 101 | .47 |
| Off You Go: Your First Session | .48 |
| Making the Best Recording Since | |
| the Beginning of Time | .48 |
| A Rant About Pitch Correction | .48 |
| The Final Step | .49 |
| Giglet Investments | .50 |
| Booking Your Very Own Giglet | .51 |
| Preparing for Your First Giglet | .51 |
| Potential Giglet Locales | .53 |
| A Little Bit of Giglet Promo | .59 |
| The Tip Jar | .60 |
| Giglets for the Singer/Songwriter | .60 |
| Ramping Up Promotion. | .62 |
| Your Giglet Day | .63 |

Chapter 3 - Business Tips for Professional Singers

| | |
|------------------------------------------|-----|
| Perfecting Your Professional Package. | .65 |
| The Power of Your Picture | .65 |
| Finding a Photographer and | |
| Getting a Great Shot | .66 |
| Hair and Makeup. | .67 |
| Getting the Proofs | .68 |
| Take My Card, Please | .68 |
| Promotion Through Social Networks | |
| and Your Own Website | .68 |
| Your Myspace Music Page | .68 |
| Building Your Music Page. | .69 |
| Your Facebook Page | .69 |
| Keep it Pro, Bro | .70 |
| Your Website. | .70 |
| Twitter. | .70 |
| YouTube | .71 |
| I Forgot About Qoweeihbl | .71 |
| Doing Business with Music People | .71 |
| Looking for Work in All the Right Places | .72 |
| The Fine Art of Schmoozing | .72 |
| Becoming a Great Schmoozer | .72 |
| Getting your Schmooze On | .72 |
| A Few Sentences About Virtual Schmoozing | .74 |
| Look Marvelous | .74 |
| Business Before Pleasure | .74 |
| The Greatest Two-Letter Word of All Time | .75 |
| The Four Questions...and the Four Ws | .75 |
| When Saying "Hi" Brings You Low | .76 |
| Schmoozing with Potential Employers. | .77 |
| When to Stop Schmoozing | .79 |
| Three Tenets to Being a Highly Effective | |
| Creative Businessperson | .80 |
| Determining Your Value. | .80 |
| Ask for What You Want | .82 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Negotiating | 82 |
| Points for Live Performers | 83 |
| Points for Studio Singers | 83 |
| Points for Everybody | 84 |
| Learn From Your Mistakes | 85 |
| When to Quit Your Day Job | 85 |

Chapter 4 -

Professional Live Performance 101 . 88

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Excuses, Excuses, Excuses | 88 |
| To the Feeling-Pressured-by Their-Family Singer | 89 |
| To the Age-Conscious Singer | 89 |
| To the CNN-Watching Singer | 90 |
| Your Professional Live-Singing World | 90 |
| Your Microphone, and Where to Hang It | 90 |
| Auditions: The Good, the Bad and the Nerve-Wracking | 92 |
| Ooh, Ooh, Pick Me.... | 92 |
| Audition Prep 101 | 92 |
| Audition-Song Boot Camp | 93 |
| Coach for a Day | 94 |
| Song Interpretation. | 95 |
| Thinking and Not Thinking at The Same Time...With Feeling | 95 |
| Ooh, What Are You Going to Wear? | 97 |
| Audition Day | 97 |
| Post-Audition TLC | 100 |
| Auditioning for Televised Musical Competitions | 100 |
| There's No Business Like | 101 |
| Your Written Application | 101 |
| Your Song Choice | 101 |
| Auditioning A Capella. | 102 |
| Dressing for Television-Viewing Success. | 102 |
| Get Your Story Straight. | 103 |
| If At First You Don't Succeed.... | 103 |
| The Saying on My Right Calf | 103 |
| Live Gigs 101 | 104 |
| Your Mic and Monitor Check | 105 |
| The Bandleader | 106 |
| A Few Words About Breaks | 107 |
| Party-Gig Songs | 107 |
| Dress Yourself/Express Yourself: Wardrobe for the Party Singer | 107 |
| Entertaining: The Possibilities | 109 |
| Have Mic, Will Travel: What to Bring to the Gig | 109 |
| Your Gig Rig | 109 |
| Your Gig Bag(s) | 109 |
| Your Mic and its Accessories | 110 |
| Read It and Sing: Your Music Stand | 111 |
| Earplugs. | 111 |
| Just Beat It: Playing Percussion on Your Live Gigs | 112 |
| Be a Tambourine Man or Woman | 112 |
| The Best Exercises Ever for Tambourine/Percussion Players. | 113 |
| Singing Background Vocals Live | 119 |
| What Your Ears Need to Know | |

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| About Background Vocals | 120 |
| Ear Training 101: Old School | 120 |
| Being a Cog in the Wheel: Singing Harmony with Others | 121 |
| Standing Your Ground | 122 |
| Ear Training 101: Real School | 122 |
| Learning Music Theory | 122 |
| "Jingle Bells" by James Lord Pierpont | 124 |
| Making Your Own Music: The Life of a Singer/Songwriter. | 126 |
| Master of Your Domain...Name | 126 |
| Songwriter Support Organizations | 127 |
| PROs: Performing Rights Organizations | 127 |
| A Finished Product: Your CD | 127 |
| Copyrighting Your Tunes | 128 |
| Consider Your Budget | 128 |
| Choosing a Producer. | 129 |
| The Studio Team | 129 |
| Committing Your Songs to History: The Recording Process. | 130 |
| The Music Tracking Session | 131 |
| Your Vocal Session. | 131 |
| Got Your Product? Now Get Some Live Gigs | 132 |
| College Gigs. | 133 |
| Rocking the Cradle: Children's Music | 134 |
| Learning From the Masters | 135 |
| A Singing Career on the Seven Seas: Cruise Ship Gigs | 136 |
| You Got the Gig—Now What? | 140 |
| Keeping Those Gigs Once You Have Them | 141 |

Chapter 5 - Singing in the Studio . 143

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Gigs for Studio Singers. | 144 |
| Learning to Sing Anything... And I Do Mean Anything | 144 |
| Learning to Sing Anything...And I Do Mean Anything...Really, Really Quickly | 145 |
| Landing Session Gigs | 145 |
| Making Your Demo CD and Promoting Yourself. | 149 |
| Do I Need an Agent? | 150 |
| A Few Words About Contracts | 150 |
| Session Singing 101 | 150 |
| Oh, It's a Union Gig. Er, Um... | 151 |
| Behaving Like the Pro That You Are: Session Etiquette 101 | 153 |
| Professional Singers Know Their Instrument | 153 |
| Professional Session Singers Bring Their Gig Rig | 154 |
| Professional Session Singers Treat Their Voices and Bodies Well | 155 |
| Professional Session Singers Always Warm Up Their Voices | 158 |
| Professional Session Singers Arrive 20 to 30 Minutes Early. | 159 |
| Professional Session Singers Are Always Friendly to Everyone | 160 |
| Professional Session Singers Learn Their Parts Quickly and Correctly | 161 |
| Professional Session Singers Know How to Conduct Themselves. | 162 |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| A Word About Clients and “Reading” Them . . . | 162 |
| A Complete Digression: Your Cell Phone. . . | 163 |
| The Mic, the Headphones and You | 163 |
| Professional Session Singers | |
| Do Not Get Upset With Themselves | 166 |
| Professional Session Singers Always | |
| Make Sure Their Clients are Happy | |
| Before They Leave | 167 |
| Professional Session Singers Always | |
| Fill Out Their Paperwork Before They Leave . . | 169 |
| Professional Session Singers | |
| Clean Up Their Mess, Schmooze a | |
| Little More and Say Goodbyes Graciously . . | 169 |
| Professional Session Singers | |
| Get Copies of Projects, Keep Demos | |
| Current and Keep in Touch With Folks | 170 |
| Singing Background Vocals | |
| ...Or, How to Play Nicely With Others | 170 |
| How to Amass Mad Background-Session | |
| Singing Skills | 171 |
| Let's look at the points I just raised | |
| and go over each one: | 172 |
| Being a Lean, Mean, Blending | |
| Vocal Machine | 174 |
| Singing With and Without Vibrato | 175 |
| All Together Now: Singing in the Live Room . | 175 |
| P.S. : All Other Rules Apply | 177 |
| Singing in Your Sweat Pants: | |
| Recording Vocals at Home | 177 |
| Your Digital Audio Workstation | 178 |
| Mbox | 178 |
| Your Studio Microphone | 178 |
| Microphone Preamplifiers. | 179 |
| Getting Good at Recording Yourself | 179 |
| Moving Along | 180 |

Chapter 6 -

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------|
| Touring as a Professional Singer . . | 181 |
| Your Extended Road Family. | 182 |
| Car/Van Road Dogging 101 | 182 |
| Calling the Tour Bus Home | 184 |
| Making Friends with Your Tour Bus | 186 |
| Your Tour Wardrobe and Accessories | 189 |
| Touring on Airplanes | 192 |
| Touring Gigs: What to Expect. | 193 |
| Sound Check 101 | 195 |
| Monitors 101 | 195 |
| In-Ear Monitors 101 | 198 |
| It's Showtime! | 200 |
| Giving It All You've Got | 201 |
| Whew! You Made It | 202 |
| Being a Health Nut on the Road...And Off . . | 202 |
| Taking Care of Your Voice | 204 |
| A Short Rant on Being a Rock Star | 205 |
| Climates and Your Voice | 205 |
| Keeping a Journal | 209 |
| Keepsakes From Your Road Life | 210 |

Chapter 7 - Giving Back and Paying it Forward. 211

| | |
|----------------------------------------|------------|
| Chapter 8 - Interviews. | 213 |
| Annie Sellick | 214 |
| Russell Terrell | 220 |
| Kira Small | 227 |
| Fred Mollin. | 234 |
| Conclusion. | 240 |

Music-Speak Glossary for Professional Singers. 243

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| 1-A | 243 |
| B | 244 |
| C | 246 |
| D | 248 |
| E | 249 |
| F | 249 |
| G | 250 |
| H | 251 |
| I | 252 |
| J | 253 |
| K | 253 |
| L | 253 |
| M | 254 |
| N | 256 |
| O | 256 |
| P | 257 |
| R | 258 |
| S | 260 |
| T | 262 |
| U | 263 |
| V | 263 |
| W | 264 |