

Contents

Introduction	5
Acknowledgements	9
Chapter 1 - Getting Started	11
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	33
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	64
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 Qoweeiuuhbl	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