



Make Space for Music

# Skill Maps

# VOCALS

## INTERMEDIATE LEVEL 2

Taaqademy's music teachers are carefully chosen for their musical ability, teaching aptitude, live performance experience and music qualifications - pretty much in that order. We can confidently claim to have some of the country's top musicians with us. As a result, we use a proprietary method of '**Skill Maps**' to bring structure and focus

to our classes, enabling our musicians to **avoid cookie-cutter methods** when working with students. Skill Maps provide **detailed specifics** on what students should be able to accomplish at every level while allowing our teachers to use their own **unique approaches**, songs, techniques and shortcuts to get students there!

## VOCALS INTERMEDIATE LEVEL 2: AREAS COVERED



**MUSIC THEORY & FUNDAMENTALS**



**SONG LEARNING**



**EAR TRAINING**



**LIVE PERFORMANCE**



**TECHNICAL EXERCISES**



**MUSIC EXAMINATIONS**



**SIGHT READING**



**IMPROVISATION**

**DETAILS ON PG.2**



## MUSIC THEORY & FUNDAMENTALS

- Introduction to the Major Pentatonic scale & its construction
- Ability to identify all key signatures containing sharps
- Introduction to odd time signatures - 3/4, 5/4 & 7/4
- Understanding dotted notes, ties, and note value combinations
- Knowledge of Tempo markings (Adante, Allegro, Moderato, and Presto), and Dynamic markings (Mezzo Forte to Pianissimo)
- Conceptual knowledge of vocal harmony
- Introduction to Modal & Mixed Voices



## EAR TRAINING

- Ability to differentiate between the Major, Minor & Major Pentatonic scales
- Ability to identify and sing all intervals.
- Ability to pitch the highest and lowest notes of a chord (major or minor triad), when played on an instrument



## TECHNICAL EXERCISES

- Ability to sing the Major Pentatonic scale from memory, with the root note played for reference
- Ability to sing the arpeggio pattern of A major ascending with E7 descending
- The ability to sing the Major & Perfect intervals up to the 8th, for a fixed or movable root
- Ability to sing the major thirds over a melody, in vocal harmony
- The practice of transitioning between the Chest voice & Head voice, and the Mixed voice & Modal voice
- Demonstration of vibratos, breathy tone, slides, and trill downs
- Demonstration of good use of phrasing & breath control
- The ability to improvise a simple tune over a chord sequence over 8 bars, e.g. in the key of D/Bb/Dm/Am, with a metronome at 80-90 bpm
- Demonstration of the use of a dynamic microphone



## SIGHT READING

- Ability to sight-read an 8-bar melody in any major or minor key, ranging up to an octave, and including dots & ties, as well as the lyrics
- Ability to sight-read simple rhythmic patterns with rests, dots & ties



### SONG LEARNING

- Completion of at least 15-20 songs in their original keys
- Ability to match transposed keys when singing
- Demonstration of vocal ad-libbing for 4-8 bars, and reworking 4-8 bars of the melody for a given song



### IMPROVISATION

- Ability to improvise or 'jam' fluently over static harmony, simple I-IV-V chord progressions.



### LIVE PERFORMANCE

- Completion of 2 Live performance & 3 Jam Bands



### MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

- RSL Grade 3/4
- Trinity Rock & Pop Grade 4

## HOW LONG WILL THIS TAKE?

This question gets asked a lot! Allow us to give you a simple rule-of-thumb:

- At this level, if you **consistently** practice an avg. **30min - 1 hr. per day**, you can expect to have covered the above in **6 months** (just **24 classes**).
- If you practice around **2 hrs. per week**, this could **add 1 - 2 months**.
- If you practice **<1 hr. per week**, you could take **10 months!**