

Stage Performance for Singers

A Practical Course in 12 Basic Steps

Martin Karnolsky



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To my father, the composer Dimitar Karnolsky, who told me more than 35 years ago: "The gesture must complement the words and not repeat them." These words form the basis of everything I have subsequently achieved in the sphere of stage performance, both in the theoretical and in the practical aspects.

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Introduction

Not everything is as complicated as it may seem. However, the contrary is also true. I am writing this book with the purpose of provoking the people who believe that walking out on the stage and singing a song is already a sign of success in itself. I am also writing for those for whom walking on stage and singing a song with their eyes closed and the microphone held in both hands is a heroic deed and unique in its artistry. And also for those who wish to achieve a bit more than holding the mike's 'head' and making infinite repetitions of the same gestures with hands in their pockets and eyes fixed on the floor or on the sky. Of course, I am also addressing those who do nothing of the above and do not know what to do at all. I am writing for vocal pedagogues, for students in all genres of singing, as well as for people who would like to go deeper into the techniques of correct and esthetic behavior and natural contact with the audience.

What should one expect from this text dedicated to stage performance? These are 12 basic steps any person should know when walking out on stage. These are approaches to the subject of stage performance from the last 20 years, put together and organized in this book. They represent my conclusions based on careful analysis of a number of successful and unsuccessful stage performances of singers of different statures. What we will actually do is study how to communicate with the audience.

I believe that every person is born with some knowledge and knows more than what this book may offer. However, I also believe that reading what I have rendered systematic here, will make it easier to achieve that coveted success. At least this is what my experience tells me.

I wish you interesting moments with *Stage Performance for Singers* and hope that each and every one of you will discover something personally valuable in this book. This will vindicate my work and please me enormously.

