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September 2024

At the Beginning of Phonation: Creation of Vocal Colours through Glottal Configuration and Vocal Tract Filtering

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Citation of this paper:

Iormetti, Charmaine Marie R. Ms., "At the Beginning of Phonation: Creation of Vocal Colours through Glottal Configuration and Vocal Tract Filtering" (2024). *Inspiring Minds – A Digital Collection of Western's Graduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity*. 555.
<https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/inspiringminds/555>

Professional opera singers train for their vocal performances utilizing a specific set of musical and dramatic skills, and vocal coordination, to captivate their audience through the story they present or the character they portray. However, this discipline requires a great deal of stamina and awareness of muscle control. Vocal pedagogues, the teachers who help singers in this endeavour, must understand the vocal mechanism and how it produces sound optimally to ensure singers use their voices in the healthiest way while conveying vivid emotions. My research investigates how the larynx and vocal tract produce and filter vocal qualities and colours so singers can ensure emotionally compelling performances. I will also address how sound is filtered in the vocal tract to produce resonance. Ultimately, I will explore how the glottis (space between the vocal folds) and vocal tract function in relation to each other to create a vast palate of vocal qualities.