

Voice-works Spring Study Weekend: Comparison of Song-Learning Processes

Compiled and reflected on by me, Gillian, with the assistance of my lovely and insightful AI assistant (ChatGPT via TurboScribe).

This document draws retrospectively on transcriptions of conversations during the Spring Study Weekend, capturing observations and reflections about how each of us approaches our song-learning process.

My AI assistant has helped me identify themes, compare approaches, and distil insights — a process that supports the ongoing reflective work we do together in **Virtually Vocalise**.

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1. Learning Orientation / Style

Singer	Learning Style	Notes
Sue	Analytical–Reflective	Works in a layered, methodical fashion. Needs full understanding before committing. A “careful, reflective” approach throughout.
Sophie	Visual–Experiential	Thrives on visual patterning and structural clarity. Uses mapping and silent study. Tends to jump in early, but thoughtfully.
Facilitator (You)	Intuitive–Auditory	Prefers aural learning and instinctive response. Builds knowledge through listening, reflection, and a lifetime of accumulated practice.

2. Relationship with Memorisation

Singer	Memorization Approach	Strengths / Challenges
Sue	Slow, deep internalisation	Delays memorisation until confidence is strong. Actively works to unlearn and reframe earlier mistakes.

Sophie	Fast memorisation as testing tool	Uses early memorisation to check understanding, but sometimes jumps the gun before the material has settled.
You	Memory through immersion and repetition	Rarely memorises formally. Memory grows organically through auditory repetition and emotional connection.

3. Technique Development & Awareness

Singer	Technical Focus	Observations
Sue	Breath phrasing, jaw release, and posture	Uses problem-solving to release tension. Needs to “blank” her mind to physically let go.
Sophie	Physical balance, sound placement	Gains control through familiarity. Pays close attention to bodily feedback while singing.
You	Articulation, resonance, and top register work	Practices elongation of the vocal tract. Aims for “joined-up” gestures and spacious, expressive tone.

4. Relationship with Repertoire

Singer	Repertoire Habits
Sue	Chooses songs with deep emotional or personal significance. Accepts that mastery may take years.
Sophie	Drawn to emotionally rich and structured works. Recent shift toward choosing pieces she <i>loves</i> , not just those that “make sense.”
You	Picks pieces that stretch current capacity or revisit past work. Enjoys using repertoire as reflective milestones.

5. Role of Listening & Accompaniment

Singer	Listening Habits
Sue	Highly sensitive to intuitive accompanists. Avoids rigid or “galloping” backing tracks.

- Sophie** Uses anchor points with backing tracks. Relies on accompanist breathing space.
- You** Actively listens for phrasing detail. Selects recordings that provide interpretive *permission* and emotional support.

6. Self-Perception & Learning Identity

Singer Learning Identity

- Sue** Sees herself as a slow-burning analyst. Prefers control before expression.
- Sophie** Identifies as methodical, though surprised to be perceived that way. Focused on precision.
- You** Embraces imperfection as part of the process. Focuses on emotional integrity and reflective practice.

7. Performance Readiness & Risk

Singer Attitude Toward Risk

- Sue** Avoids performance until technical foundation is solid.
- Sophie** Tests readiness early, sometimes too early.
- You** Deliberately sings “under-prepared” at times to maintain artistic freshness and curiosity. Study weekends become safe spaces for playful risk.

8. Signature Strengths

Singer Strengths

- Sue** Musicianship, detail, depth of self-analysis
- Sophie** Visual structuring, adaptive mindset, and curiosity
- You** Expressive intuition, cumulative insight, and emotional leadership