

Developing Characters - Emotional Context & Delivery

Part 1

Choose one of the sample phrases and practice saying it while channeling different emotions from the list provided. Repeat the phrase several times and pay attention to how the emotional perspective changes the rhythm, inflection, pacing, tone, and texture of your voice.

As you explore the phrase, think about the character behind it. Who might be saying these words? What emotional state are they in? What has happened to them just before this moment? How might those emotional and vocal qualities translate into musical choices like melody, groove, phrasing, harmony, or arrangement?

Sample Phrases

1. "I didn't think you'd come back."
2. "Well... there you are."
3. "I thought you understood."
4. "I don't know what to say."
5. "You finally made it."

Emotions

- Loving
- Threatening
- Relieved
- Disappointed
- Exhausted
- Sarcastic
- Ashamed
- Nostalgic
- Manipulative
- Grieving
- Flirtatious
- Stunned
- Resigned
- Hopeful
- Manipulative
- Joyful

Now choose one of the emotions that you were drawn to. Speak the phrase you chose with that emotion several times. Notice pitch movement, pauses, emphasis, pacing, emotional intensity. Try singing the phrase while preserving those qualities.

Part 2

Now that you have explored the emotional delivery of the phrase and experimented with putting it to music, begin developing the character behind the words. Before writing, answer the following questions:

- 1. Who is speaking,*
- 2. Where are they?*
- 3. What just happened?*
- 4. What do they want?*

Once you have answered those questions, write a short verse from that character's perspective. Try to let the emotional tone, rhythm, pacing, and personality of the spoken phrase shape the language and musical feel of the song
