

Vocal Skills Ladder

Pitching and Tuning:

- A focus on pitching helps to familiarise the voice with different notes and intervals between two pitches, as well as finding how these notes sit within your range and whether they are reached comfortably with chest voice, by belting or need head voice to reach them.
- Regular pitch exercises train the vocals to reach notes more accurately:

Beginner - Using a keyboard or piano, or using a scale track sourced from Youtube, play each note in the scale and match the pitch of the note with the voice, using a la vowel. Begin with ascending major scales, then try descending and repeat with minor scales for added challenge. (Link: <https://youtu.be/fCxmDUJ8U>)

Intermediate - Repeat this up to 5 times with various keys and tonalities, remember to utilise the correct breathing technique and really listen to the changes of each note to less likely fall sharp or flat on the notes.

Advanced - Try to accurately match the five note patterns that are played ascending the keys of the piano, using your voice and different vowel sounds (Eg. 'ooo', 'ah', 'go', 'ha')

(Link: <https://youtu.be/RTokGPc34wo>)

To ensure you are staying in tune, try to record your vocals and make a note of areas that you feel are not as accurate in pitch. You can then isolate and revisit these sections to practice and perfect! Humming different scales and note patterns can be an added challenge as it is harder to reach notes accurately this way, increasing awareness of your own pitch and staying in tune.

Suggested songs that require accurate pitching include "*Mr Brightside*" - The Killers, "*A Thousand Miles*" - Vanessa Carlton, "*Photograph*" - Ed Sheeran, "*Marry You*" - Bruno Mars, "*Feeling Good*" - Muse & "*Skinny Love*" - Birdy.