

# Vocal Skills Ladder

## Step 3: Applying These Techniques to Songs & Performing

Please refer to the Skills Song Ladder for Vocals for guidance of techniques used within the suggested songs: "Mr Brightside" - The Killers, "A Thousand Miles" - Vanessa Carlton, "Wake Me Up" - Avicii, "Pompeii" - Bastille, "Photograph" - Ed Sheeran, "Yours" - Ella Henderson, "Marry You" - Bruno Mars, "Valerie" - Amy Winehouse, "Feeling Good" - Muse, "Skinny Love" - Birdy, "Feel Good Inc." - Gorillaz.

## Performance Skills:

### Microphone Technique -

- Find a comfortable position and height of the microphone and stand when performing, ensuring it is close enough for your vocals to be recognised and projected without the possibility of straining your vocal cords.
- Make sure you are facing and performing out to the audience, whether your microphone is on a stand or in hand.

### Dynamics and volume levels -

- Make sure you can hear yourself over the other musicians and remember to breathe with support of your diaphragm to project your voice and prevent vocal strain.
- If you cannot hear yourself, ask the other musicians to turn down their levels and try a small soundcheck, by playing through the loudest part of the song together as a band before a rehearsal or performance.

### Movement -

- Be observant and aware of who is around you on stage when moving around and take care with the presence of cables and wires also.
- Maintain a stable posture and think about movements that serve the song and genre which you are playing.
- Have fun and be creative with ideas!

## Communication with other Musicians -

- If there are any areas within a song that you are unsure with, communicate this with the band and they will be able to practice the area with you.
- In contrast, be supportive and willing to help somebody in the band if there is a part they need to refine.
- Consider both your own part and the parts of other musicians, giving them space to solo and show off their skills as well as your own. Be conscious of where to sing and where not to sing and the timing and phrasing of lyrics also.