

To work *musically* with improving the quality of professional speaker's voices.

In my paedagogical project I am examining how to use music tools and a musical mindset in the work with professional speaker's voices, in this case news reporters.

The question is – can *music* do something helpfull in the process of improving the speaking voice? Throat, ear and nose doctors, speech therapists and drama teachers all work with how to use the voice as good/correct/powerfull as possible – but can music do something unique in this process?

My hypothesis is that singing can help strenghtening the voice – muscularly, soundwise and expressionwise. When somebody sings, it becomes more obvious what is going on muscularly in the throat, neck, shoulders, back, diaphragma and the abdominal muscles when producing sound. Singing emphasizes the expression of a person; how a person breaths, the sense of timing and rhythm, phrasing, diction, melodic and harmonic center. Through music a person can work with parameters such as dedication, engagement, sense of the situation, dynamic storytelling – qualities that are also important for a professional news reporter.

Besides my studies at the Rhythmic Conservatory in Copenhagen I work with news reporters at a big TV channel in Denmark. The people I work with are very different and have different challenges that they want/need to work with. When they come to me to work with their voices it is always a decision made between the news reporter, a colleague from the TV channel and me. My colleague describes to me what the TV channel want this person to work with, for instance:

- **The sound** (work on a person's sound, fx nasality, sharpness or high pitch. In news reporting on this channel it is always a big plus if your voice is in the low range and pretty smooth and pleasant to listen too – because in their view the low range pitch sends a signal of credibility).
- **Engagement** (work on a person's ability to be engaged and trustworthy when telling a story).

In other words; the TV channel has a vision of the ideal news reporter; they want their employees to work towards a special voice idea which can be described like this:

A good speaking voice has a deep, soft, non-sharp, non-nasal sound. The speaker must be able to deliver his sentences with sense of timing, sense of the situation (from seriousness if the story demands it to cheerfulness if the story demands it).

I will work with 5 different news reporters throughout a period of 4 months. I will meet them in 1-to-1 situations and depending on what we need to work with we will have between 3 – 12

sessions à 60 minutes. At some of the sessions a supervisor will be present - either a speaking therapist or a musician/singer.

I will collect data from the sessions by recording, videotaping, my own notes and by collecting feedback from the news reporters and my supervisors.