

# Singing is an art form

(importantly - for keen instrumentalists information as well)



By [Dr.Prof. Edward Charles](#) - 1990

The coveted title of 'true art' is legitimately claimed by painters of art works, and is usually accepted, unquestioned, unchallenged.

If a person is introduced as an Artist, it is expected that s/he paints pictures. Many others, from sculptors to pugilists, also regard their favoured pursuit as an art-form, but is there any one art that incorporates many recognised art-forms?

### **What about singing as a contender?**

Is singing a senior Art-form? Is it "the" senior art-form?

A major problem with this conjecture is that most people are (very) amateur singers. A minuscule number are consummate performers (artists).

The human voice is tinier than any other instrument. Despite this, it is infinitely more adaptable, controllable and flexible than any other instrument and incidentally, it is the only instrument which is self-maintaining and self-repairing - and improvable through exercise as well as practise.

Under experienced, efficient direction and control, the competent vocalist incorporates initially the art of the poet and composer and through a secondary process couples the talent and expertise of teachers, repetiteurs, accompanists, conductors, orchestral instrumentalists etc. and indirectly, instrument designers and makers.

Perhaps we should not exclude the architect who is conscious of acoustic, builders, furnishers, and decorators, amplification and lighting engineers and operators, and artwork designers and drawers, and printers of music, advertising and tickets, even the entrepreneur, producer and director etc.

Also, there is the vastly under-estimated "art of listening" which deserves an article on its own!

While most art-forms concentrate on one medium only, the singer/musician amalgamates directly and indirectly many highly qualified specialists and indeed is the culminating and the final show-case of all the extensive preparatory dedicated planning which precedes every carefully developed performance.

Perhaps only the maestro carries a greater responsibility when he conducts a myriad of artistically designed and constructed instruments valued at up to millions of dollars, each competently manipulated by vastly experienced highly qualified musicians all of whom may be supporting up to hundreds of talented, trained choristers.

Each singer/musician in that ensemble has an overwhelming responsibility. In one split second one performer could utter a sound early, late or wrong, or during a one beat rest or etc which could ruin a performance!

Imagine recording a major work with one tiny squeak at an inappropriate time. Tch, tch!

Oh, the beauty of a tumultuous culmination of a series of glorious staccato full chords perforated by equal silences - as long as one of those silences is not filled in by an ignoble blurt from an incompetent, - resulting in an immediate transformation from sheer magnificence to irredeemable catastrophic disaster! That would be comparative to slashing a master painting!

### **Is music "the" senior art-form?**

If you consider that in execution, music cannot be seen or physically felt, then it certainly is the most ephemeral and the least tangible of the arts. Is this lacy character, this evanescent quality and its obscure peculiarity, a major part of music's hypnotic, enduring charm?

Consider the synthesis of melody, (tune) harmony and rhythm, each of which is incongruously an exact but vague science, as they magically combine to immediately be incomparably soothing or stirring, calming or exciting, gentle or mighty, beautiful or irritating, etc.

### **Music - the senior art?**

Well, what other art-form requires a unique, highly developed natural talent, painstakingly improved over countless years, as a pre-requisite to more years of dedicated study to receive one of the innumerable academic music diplomas universally offered by a plethora of reputable long standing credible conservatories?

The Oxford Companion to Music published an incomplete list of dozens of recognised music degrees.

Music is an art -form which can be appreciated by the untrained and least educated worthy observer, but only if fullest concentrated listening effort is extended, otherwise go back to hitting a tin with a stick; but if you do, get the rhythm, pulse and volumes right this time! But above all, enjoy the row.

Don't despair!\_

You just might soon begin to appreciate that there is a little more to music than a primitive beat, and who knows where your interest and your ability might develop from there?