

# THE CAREER TRIP

## A SINGING CAREER IS A VOYAGE OF THE MIND

PLAN YOUR TRIP AND YOUR CHANCES OF ARRIVING AT YOUR DESTINATION ARE ENHANCED TEN-FOLD.

Very few artists gain recognition in the concert field by chance. Luck does, indeed play a part in success; however, it still is true that the hardest workers are generally the "luckiest."

Having decided that "voice" is your choice of endeavor, study the field carefully... What kind of person succeeds? What did they do to succeed? What is the sequence of events that must occur to gain recognition? What comes first, second, third, etc.? It would seem obvious, to the least experienced, that one should have a product designed before approaching representation. So, the first consideration would be to develop the basic product, your voice. Lessons, coaching, languages, repertoire and the development of concerts, recitals, operas, pop shows, nightclub acts, etc., will fill the first few years of your study.

After satisfying the initial requirements of vocal technique, one must move on to the use of that technique. There is, of course, a different repertoire required for the various fields of singings. If you lean towards "pop" or "rock", there is the top 40's and the necessity to performing them. Appearing with local rock or wedding bands can get you started. Naturally a lot of time must be spent learning the lyrics of all of these songs. Then, there are the originals, which you may write or someone in the band may write.

If you lean towards the classical field, you must spend time each day learning the songs, arias, operas, oratorios, and other concert

material. You must spend time in opera workshops, dance workshops, and acting workshops preparing for your professional career. You should constantly be studying vocal technique with a teacher at least twice a week. Plus you should be coached for your languages and interpretation.

Try to learn to speak at least one other language besides English, and acquire a working knowledge of two others. The three main languages, besides English, are Italian, German, and French.

During this time of study, you may audition for solo jobs at church, temple, community organizations (classical or pop), regional opera, dinner theatre, and many others which you will find in "casting calls" in your newspapers and arts and theatre papers.

As you progress and wish to test yourself, you can enter vocal contests for foundation money or grants, i.e.: The Met Opera Auditions, Chicago Lyric Opera Program, San Francisco Opera Merle Program, and many more.

When you feel that you can compare to a professional standard of excellence, and have had experience appearing on stage successfully in your field of vocal expertise, then you can seek management. If successful in acquiring management and an agent, you can then feel that you have arrived at a plateau upon which someone in the profession considers you a valuable product and will try to "sell" you.

All of the above can be pre-planned. Success cannot be specifically pre-ordained. However, if you pre-plan your trip and travel, even a small distance each day, your chances of arriving at a destination of professionalism and monetary reward can be excellent. Don't, for one moment, think it can be done any other way. If you are depending on some lightning of luck striking you with fame without paying your dues

and working to deserve that fame, you are just wasting your time and money.

MAKE THE TRIP A JOURNEY OF THE MIND. Pre-plan your trip by mapping out a direction in your life. Don't wait for life to "discover" you or push you around. You can plan life to a great extent and, in the planning, control your life. Success will only 'discover' you if you are prepared. Then, and only then, can you take advantage of the discovery.

The following page is an example of planning a career. Study the sequential listings and write one of your own. Use this format and the additional listings in section VIII to create a map of your JOURNEY TO A PROFESSIONAL CAREER.