# Phonetic Transcription for Lyric Diction

A graded method of phonetic transcription that employs frequently occurring words from Italian, German, French, Latin, and English lyrics

**Expanded Version** 

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S.T.M. Publishers

#### **PREFACE**

Phonetic Transcription for Lyric Diction offers an efficient approach to the study of Italian, German, French, and Latin transcription. It is second in a two-part series. Phonetic Readings for Lyric Diction is the introductory text. Together, these workbooks address enunciation and transcription respectively. Italian, German, French, and Latin enunciation rules with English rules for transcription are established in part one so that students are adequately prepared for the rigorous approach to transcription provided in part two.

This text is the expanded version of *Phonetic Transcription for Lyric Diction*. It contains an additional 10 units to cover English transcription.

The word lists in this text were generated from the lyrics of more than 6,000 art songs. Lyric words were organized in order of frequency of occurrence and categorized according to Italian, German, French, Latin, and English speech sounds as defined by the International Phonetic Alphabet. Worksheets were created from the word lists and arranged according to a strategic order of rules. This design streamlines the approach to teaching lyric diction and allows the instructor to cover transcription in an efficient manner.

Each unit highlights a specified set of symbols by providing rules for transcription, a group assignment, and 12 individually assigned word lists. Units progress in cumulative order culminating with exercises that allow students to transcribe and enunciate phrases from art song lyrics and Liturgical Latin texts. A study of articulatory phonetics is included with consonant and vowel charts for student application and definition of terms. Comprehensive exams and a review of rules are provided for each language.

I invite the reader to see the appendix of *Exploring Art Song Lyrics*, published by Oxford University Press, for a comparative analysis of my method of transcription.

This text would not be possible without generous help from many individuals. I wish to thank Dr. Corradina Caporello, Professor of Italian diction at the Juilliard School, for her excellent guidance. She finalized the rules for enunciation and transcription in the *Italian Lyric Diction Workbook* which were again applied in the Italian portions of this book. Dr. Daniel Solomon, professor of Classical Studies at Vanderbilt University, is the Latin and Italian language and translation editor. Sarah Köllner, editor of the *Athenäum - Jahrbuch der Friedrich Schlegel-Gesellschaft*, is the German text and translation editor. Cecile Moreau is the French language and translation editor. Their expertise is much appreciated.

The Lyric Diction Workbook Series was created to make the lyric languages accessible to singers. Familiarity is gained as numerous words are encountered. The series was designed to make grading easier for instructors. Accurate transcription and proficiency of memorized rules is assessed through in-class enunciation. Further discussion and sample syllabus schedules are available by clicking on the blue button titled "How the workbooks function in the classroom" on the home page at www.stmpublishers.com. Phonetic Readings for Lyric Diction and Phonetic Transcription for Lyric Diction accommodate various pedagogical approaches and course lengths. Together, they introduce students to the lyric languages through transcription and enunciation of a rich vocabulary.

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# UNIT 30:

## English flipped [r], retroflex [x], and silent r

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#### RULES FOR TRANSCRIPTION

#### English rules for art song: flipped [r], retroflex [x], and silent r

Spelling	IPA	Sample Words
*r + pronounced vowel	[J] Alveolar Retroflex	spring [spлŋ] rhythm [ˈлɪðəm] every [ˈʔɛvл]
Intervocalic r	[f] Alveolar Flipped	merry [ˈmɛɾɪ] spirit [ˈspɪrɪt]
thr	[f] Alveolar Flipped	thread [θιεd] throne [θιουη] three [θιί]
Initial <i>gr</i> and <i>cr</i> of dramatic words	[f] Alveolar Flipped	cruel [ˈkɾuəl] grim [grɪm]
Initial $r + [u]$	[ff] Alveolar Flipped	ruby [ˈrrubɪ] room [rrum]
Consonant $+ r + [u]$	[f] Alveolar Flipped	fruit [frut] approve [ʔʌˈpɾuv]
r + consonant	Silent r	heart [haːt] sword [sɔːd]
r + breath, rest, or final silent $e$	Silent r	dear [dɪə] ever ['ʔɛvə] star [sta:]

<sup>\*</sup> The retroflex r has less carrying power than the flipped r. Oratorio and operatic literature require a flipped articulation of r except in words with the consonant clusters dr and tr.

#### Transcription of r within the phrase

Intervocalic r within the phrase is flipped [r]. Two exceptions apply:

1. Light flipped [r]: Articulate a lightly flipped r when a final r word is followed by an unaccented initial vowel word or syllable. Purpose: the flipped r connects elements that are unstressed within the phrase.

I weep for wonder wand'ring far alone [ ?αι wip fo: 'wʌndə 'wandɹɪŋ fa:(r) ʌ'loʊn ]

Sure on this Shining Night by Agee/Barber

2. Silent *r*: A final *r* should remain silent when followed by an initial vowel word that is stressed within the phrase. The *r* is not considered intervocalic since the glottal stop clearly functions as a consonant.

Your eyes, your mien, your tongue declare [ joo ?aiz joo min joo tan di kleo ]

If Music be the Food of Love by Heveningham/Purcell

**Note:** A flipped r may sound too formal for American art song lyrics. In this case, the flipped r may be replaced with a rapidly articulated vowel r. The German vowel  $\lfloor \kappa \rfloor$  provides a suitable lyric replacement since it is formed with the tongue tip touching the lower row of teeth. It is helpful to retain the flipped  $\lceil r \rceil$  transcription as a reminder that enunciated r must never alter the formation of a preceding vowel.

198 Individual Exercises

#### Worksheet #30: English flipped [r], retroflex [x], and silent r

#### Provide IPA:

#9			#10			#11		
1.	tender	[ˈtɛndə]	1.	part	[pa_t]	1.	breeze	[b_iz]
2.	cry	[k_a1]	2.	grass	[g_as]	2.	cruel	[ˈk <u>u</u> əl]
3.	raise	[_εɪz]	3.	curious	[ˈkjʊə_ɪəs]	3.	scorn	[skə_n]
4.	born	[bə_n]	4.	better	[ˈbɛtə <u></u> ]	4.	thrill	[θ <u>_</u> ɪl]
5.	horrid	['hoɪd]	5.	routine	[u'tin]	5.	over	[_evuof']
6.	three	[θ_i]	6.	ring	[ <u>_</u> ɪŋ]	6.	rude	[ <u>ud</u> ]
7.	pretty	['pɪtɪ]	7.	truth	[t_uθ]	7.	paradise	[ˈpæ_ədaɪs]
8.	rooms	[ <u>umz</u> ]	8.	word	[w3_d]	8.	burn	[p3_u]
9.	first	[f3 <u>s</u> t]	9.	drink	[d_ɪŋk]	9.	grave	$[g\_\epsilon iv]$
10.	groom	[g_um]	10.	thrift	[θ_ɪft]	10.	ready	[' <u>_</u> ɛdɪ]
#12			#13			#14		
1.	bitter	['bɪtə <u>]</u>	1.	thrive	[θ_aιν]	1.	later	[ˈlɛɪtə_]
2.	crumble	[ˈkʌmbəl]	2.	wonder	[ˈwʌndə]	2.	green	[g_in]
3.	mirth	[m3 <u></u> θ]	3.	murmuring	[ˈmɜ_mə_ɪŋ]	3.	ruler	[ˈ <u>u</u> lə <u></u> ]
4.	rue	[ <u>u</u> ]	4.	friend	[f_end]	4.	reason	[' <u>_</u> izən]
5.	thrice	[θ <u></u> ais]	5.	ruthless	[ˈ <u>u</u> θləs]	5.	hard	[ha_d]
6.	reach	[_itʃ]	6.	crystal	[ˈk_ɪstəl]	6.	world	[w3_ld]
7.	darkness	[ˈda_knəs]	7.	broods	[b_udz]	7.	enthrall	$[lc\_\theta'niS]$
8.	sorrows	[ˈsa_oʊz]	8.	perish	[ˈpɛ <u>ıʃ]</u>	8.	prove	[p_uv]
9.	praise	[p <u>ε</u> ιz]	9.	arms	[?a <u>mz]</u>	9.	breath	[b <u>ε</u> θ]
10.	fruit	[f_ut]	10.	rhyme	[_aɪm]	10.	misery	['mɪzəı]

Transcription within the phrase: enunciate the following verses from classical literature

#### **Adoration: Spirited Action:** [ ðav ?a:t ?ov gad ðə laif ənd lait ] [ nav 'sto:min 'fjvəri rovz ] [ ənd ˈklæmə sʌtʃ əz hɜd ɪn ˈhɛvən tɪl naʊ ] [ is iw blew setbuve, signification of set leading is set leading in the set leading is set leading in the set leading in the set leading is set leading in the set l [ its glov bai dei its smail bai nait ] [ waz 'nevə ?a:mz an '?a:mə 'klæsin bieid ] [ a: bət .ii ˈflɛkʃənz kət f.iəm ði ] [ 'horibəl 'dısko:d ənd ðə 'mædənin milz ] [ meə'?eə wi tən dai 'gləriz sain ] [ sv 'bisizən 'tsæriəts 'daiə waz ðə noiz ] [ and ol $\theta$ inz 'feə(r) and brait a: $\theta$ ain ] [ əv 'kanflıkt ?ovvə'hed ðə 'dızməl hıs ] [ əv 'faɪərı da:ts ın 'flɛɪmɪŋ 'valız flu ] Sacred Songs Moore. [ end 'flain 'volted 'aiðe houst wið 'faie ] Paradise Lost, Book VI. Milton.

# UNIT 37:

# English schwa replacement of r

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#### RULES FOR TRANSCRIPTION

#### Schwa replacement of r in monosyllables and stressed syllables

Spelling	IPA	Sample Words
air, are, ayer, ear, ere	[e3]	air, share, prayer, bear, where
ear, eer, ere, ier	[eɪ]	dear, cheer, here, fierce
oar, ore, our	[ec]	soar, adore, your, pour
oor, our	[co]	poor, tour
ior, ire, yre	[aɪə]	prior, fire, lyre
our, ower	[ຜບə]	our, power
ure	[jʊə]	cure, sure

#### Additional Notes

- 1) A flipped r is added following the schwa when r is intervocalic: purest ['pjvərəst].
- 2) The spelling *ure* has two pronunciations. It is transcribed as [jʊə] when it occurs in a stressed syllable: *endure* [ʔɪnˈdjʊə]. It is transcribed with a schwa when it occurs in an unstressed syllable: *leisure* [ˈliʒə]. The triphthong transcription may be used if the unstressed syllable is set on a sustained pitch.
- 3) A schwa is not recommended for unstressed words *or* [?ɔː], *for* [fɔː], and *nor* [nɔː]. Note: final *-for* of words with multiple elements is [fɔə]: *before* [bɪˈfɔə]

#### Comparative Study

The transcription of diphthongs and triphthongs varies from source to source. Madeleine Marshall's recommendations reflect an elegant and formal pronunciation of the English language that elevates and simplifies the delivery of the text.

SAMPLE WORD	*AMERICAN ENGLISH	BRITISH ENGLISH	MARSHALL
there	[દરુ]	[e3]	[e3]
near	[13-]	[eɪ]	[e1]
more	[၁&]	[5:]	[əə]
poor	[ʊ৵]	[ʊə]	[ʊə]
choir	[aɪə-]	[aɪə]	[aɪə]
power	[aʊə-]	[aʊə]	[aʊə]
pure	[jʊə]	[jʊə]	[jʊə]

<sup>\*</sup>Dictionary transcription provides an [&] symbol. This symbol reflects spoken practice but is not appropriate for lyric diction since it merges a schwa with an *r*-colored vowel. In speech, these sounds occur simultaneously. For singing, the schwa is sustained. According to the rules established by Madeleine Marshall, an *r*-colored vowel would never occur in an unstressed syllable. Vowel *r* is a characteristic sound of the English language but it should be reserved for stressed syllables and monophthongs: *prefer* [pii f3] *bird* [b3d] *word* [w3d].

226 Individual Exercises

#### Worksheet #37: English schwa replacement of *r*

#### Provide IPA:

#9		#10	1	#11		
1.	fears	1.	aspire	1.	pastures	
2.	farewell	2.	hear	2.	dears	
3.	or	3.	towering	3.	sorely	
4.	treasures	4.	for	4.	firelight	
5.	desires	5.	endure	5.	severe	
6.	storing	6.	square	6.	hourly	
7.	showering	7.	door	7.	ere	
8.	lures	8.	figure	8.	nor	
9.	clearly	9.	nearly	9.	allures	
10.	chair	10.	prepare	10.	compare	
#12		#13		#14		
1.	cheerfully	1.	sapphire	1.	pair	
2.	choir	2.	threadbare	2.	fierce	
3.	feature	3.	endearing	3.	lovelier	
4.	neared	4.	powerful	4.	demurely	
5.	stair	5.	displeasure	5.	wherever	
6.	or	6.	fair	6.	shores	
7.	during	7.	clear	7.	nor	
8.	ensnare	8.	restoreth	8.	azure	
9.	flowering	9.	for	9.	sour	
10.	therefore	10.	assure	10.	require	

Transcription within the phrase: enunciate the following verses from classical literature

#### **Sorrow:**

[ ?ou '?evə ðas f.am 'tsaldhudz ?auə ] [ ?aɪv sin maɪ 'fandəst houps dı 'keɪ ] [ au 'nevə lavd ə tii ə: 'flavə ] [ bət twaz ðə fəst tə feid a'wei ] [ ar 'nevə nəst ə diə ga'zel ] [ tə glæd mi wið its saft blæk ?ai ] [ bət men it keim tə nov mi wel ] [ end lav if im val bar ]

*The Fire-Worshipers.* 

Moore.

#### **Defiant Address:**

[ mens and mat a:t day 'Peksakiabal seip ] [ ðæt 'deərəst ðou grim ənd 'teribəl Ad'vans ] [ ðai 'miskrieitəd fiant a' $\theta$ wo:t mai wei ] [ tə 'jandə geits θru ðəm ai min tə pas ] [ ðət bi n'sjuəd wið'aut liv askt əv ði ] [ li'taiə(r) ?o: teist ðai 'fali ənd lan bai pruf ] [ hel bo:n not to kan'tend wið 'spirits ov 'hevon ]

Paradise Lost, Book II.

Milton.

# REVIEW OF ENGLISH TRANSCRIPTION RULES

A summary of the rules for frequently occurring words

#### Review of English Transcription Rules

	VOWEL SPELLINGS OF MONOPHTHONGS												
[i]	[I]	[ε]	[æ]	[a]	British [a]	[၁]	[u]	[ju]	[ʊ]	[Λ]	[3]		
eat	give	bed	glad	f <b>o</b> nd	after	all	soon	due	book	up	her		
breeze	build	guest	plaid	ch <b>ar</b> m	class	fawns	through	new	could	blood	search		
we	myth	head		wander	Blanch	born	lose	tune	full	love	bird		
field	been	friend	a + [f]	what	danced	August	flew	lute	woman	young	word		
ski		said	arrow	balm	rather	fought	blue	illumine			hurt		
receive		many	carol	tomorrow	plant	war	two	suit			further		
people		bury	carry	father	command	broad		enthuse					
			marry	Ah!	sample	water		Spelling: d	Spelling: $d$ , $n$ , $t$ , $l$ , $s$ , $th + u$ or $ew$				
					(see exceptio	ns in III)		Except consonant blends with l: blue					

	VOWEL SPELLINGS OF DIPHTHONGS AND TRIPHTHONGS											
[aɪ]	[aɪə]	[٤1]	[16]	[av]	[aʊə]	[00]	[e1]	[e3]	[၁ə]	[co]	[jʊə]	
chime	fire	day	choice	cloud	flour	hope	cheer	air	adore	poor	pure	
sky	lyre	plain	joy	town	power	coast	dear	share	soar	tour	sure	
neither		great					fierce	where	your, pour			

	VOWEL SPELLINGS OF UNSTRESSED SYLLABLES											
Unstr. [1]	Unstr. [Λ]	Unstr. [3]	Unstr. [5]	Unstr. [σ]	Unstr. [o]	Suffix [σ]	Unstr.[1]	Unstr. [oʊ]				
believe	agree	perceive	forgive	<b>ful</b> fill	obey	beauti <b>ful</b>	mercy	shadow				
endure	complete	surprise	h <b>or</b> izon		provide	wonderful	sing <b>ing</b>	Unstr. [ει]				
divine	concern		t <b>or</b> mented		memory	bounti <b>ful</b>	pit <b>ie</b> d	alw <b>ay</b> s				
	uncertain				Except	Final <i>-full</i> in 3	prair <b>ie</b>	Unstr. [aɪ]				
	<b>up</b> lifting				purpose	syllable words	marr <b>ie</b> s	paradise				

				CO	NSONANT	SPELLING	GS				
[1]	[1]	[θ]	[ð]	$[\int]$	[3]	[tʃ]	[dʒ]	[ŋ]	[ŋg]	[j]	[M]
merry	dream	three	this	share	vision	chair	gesture	young	youngest	yellow	when
star above	ring	thing	father	precious	azure	ancient	age	sing	finger	music	wheat
thread	every	breath	breathe	devotion	occasion	search	gentle	singer		beyond	whether
Dramatic	[II.V3f']		with		treasure	choose	judge	ink			
cruel		_									
<b>gr</b> im	Silent r		[3]		C	hanges in v	oicing occi	ur with fir	nal consonan	ts	
[ru]	heart		age		[t]	[d]	[s]	[z]	[θ]	[ð]	
fruit	sword		eyes		missed	pleased	notes	leaves	path	paths	
prove	were kind		own		looked	loved	works	birds	youth	youths	
[rru]	dear		Voicing matches previous consonant Plural form is voic					n is voiced			
ruby	Pronounce	d r is flip	ped for ope	era and orate	orio (except i	for <i>dr</i> and <i>t</i>	r combinat	ions)			•

#### WHEN TO SING [a]

Specified spellings that have an [æ] sound in American English are pronounced with a dark [a] for British English

I. Spelling: a + [f], [s], [nt], [ns], th

a + [f]		a + [s]			$a + [nt \int]$		a + [ns]		a + th		
after	[ˈʔɑftə]	ask	[?ask]	master	[ˈmɑstə]	blanch	[blantʃ]	advance	[?æd'vans]	bath	[bαθ]
laugh	[laf]	fast	[fast]	pass	[pas]	branches	[ˈbɹantʃ]	chance	[tʃans]	path	$[pa\theta]$
staff	[staf]	glass	[glas]	past	[past]	ranch	[.iantʃ]	dance	[dans]	rather	[ˈɪɑðə]
wafted	[ˈwɑftəd]	last	[last]	vast	[vast]	scranch	[sk.iantʃ]	*trance	[tıans]	wrath	$[a\theta]$

<sup>\*</sup>Prefix *trans*- is transcribed with [æ]

II. Spellings -and, -ant and -ample are [a] in the following words only:

-and: command, demand, reprimand -ant: can't, shan't, aunt, advantage, chant, enchant, grant, plant, slant -ample: sample, example

#### III. Exceptions to section I: words with an [æ] pronunciation

1						
a+f	a + s		a+s $a+ns$		may be ei	ther [æ] or [a]
baffle	aspect	fantastic	cancel	fathom	alas	contrast
daffodil	aspiration	hast	circumstance	gather	ant	enhance
graphic	cascade	passage	expanse	hath	asp	lass
scaffold	chastise	passenger	fancy	math	aspen	mass
riffraff	classic	passive	romance		ass	pasture
traffic	classify	sarcastic	stance		blaspheme	ranch

308 Answer Key

#12			#13			#14		
1.	yielding	[ˈjildɪŋ]	1.	shrieked	[ʃɪikt]	1.	ships	[ʃɪps]
2.	car <u>o</u> l [ə]	[ˈkæɾəl]	2.	gems	[dʒɛmz]	2.	sensed	[senst]
3.	perish	[ˈpɛrɪʃ]	3.	clink	[klɪŋk]	3.	rapid	[ˈɹæpɪd]
4.	beamed	[bimd]	4.	speaks	[spiks]	4.	freely	[ˈfɹilɪ]
5.	lilies	[lɪlɪz]	5.	busy	[ˈbɪzɪ]	5.	pleasing	[ˈplizɪŋ]
6.	deaths	$[d\epsilon\theta s]$	6.	magic	[ˈmædʒɪk]	6.	marries	[ˈmærɪz]
7.	sink	[sɪŋk]	7.	sealed	[sild]	7.	begged	[bɛgd]
8.	eaves	[?ivz]	8.	pities	[ˈpɪtɪz]	8.	weeps	[wips]
9.	ready	[ˈɹɛdɪ]	9.	fleeting	[ˈflitɪŋ]	9.	parish	[ˈpærɪʃ]
10.	ceased	[sist]	10.	marriage	[ˈmærɪdʒ]	10.	thieves	[θivz]

#### **Admiration:**

What a piece of work is man!

How noble in reason!

how infinite in faculty!

In form and moving how express and admirable!

in action how like an angel!

in apprehension how like a god!

the beauty of the world!

the paragon of animals!

Hamlet, Act II., Sc. 2.

Shakespeare.

#### Joy:

Then sing, ye birds, sing, sing a joyous song!

And let the young lambs bound

As to the tabor's sound!

We in thought will join your throng,

Ye that pipe and ye that play,

Ye that through your hearts to-day

Feel the gladness of the May!

Intimations of Immortality.

Wordsworth.

Unit 33, English back [5], [u], [v], central [a], consonant [M], semiconsonants [w], [j]

	swork		#1	,, 5	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	#2		
1.	charms	[tʃɑːmz]	1.	jaw	[dʒɔ]	1.	walled	[blcw]
2.	draws	[zcrp]	2.	march	[maːtʃ]	2.	yarn	[ja:n]
3.	promised	[ˈpɹamɪst]	3.	taunt	[tont]	3.	suit	[sjut]
4.	taught	[tot]	4.	knew	[nju]	4.	courts	[kɔːts]
5.	solitude	[ˈsalɪtjud]	5.	rocks	[.iaks]	5.	oft	[?aft]
6.	waltz	[wəlts]	6.	course	[kɔ:s]	6.	scorch	[skɔːtʃ]
7.	should	[ʃʊd]	7.	which	[MItʃ]	7.	gnaws	[nɔz]
8.	courtly	[ˈkɔːtlɪ]	8.	swords	[sɔ:dz]	8.	whistling	[ˈmɪslɪŋ]
9.	flew	[flu]	9.	shook	[∫ʊk]	9.	foot	[fʊt]
10.	Lord	[lɔ:d]	10.	falls	[fɔlz]	10.	haunt	[hont]
11.	whence	[wens]	11.	lose	[luz]	11.	blooming	[ˈblumɪŋ]
12.	balm	[bam]	12.	broad	[bc.td]	12.	wroth	$[\theta c L]$
#3			#4			#5		
1.	bought	[bot]	1.	torn	[to:n]	1.	warn	[wɔ:n]
2.	foggy	[ˈfagɪ]	2.	arms	[?a:mz]	2.	whose	[huz]
3.	lute	[ljut]	3.	r <u>e</u> sume [1]	[ліˈzjum]	3.	cross	[k.as]
4.	haul	[hol]	4.	want	[want]	4.	thought	$[\theta \text{ot}]$
5.	watched	[watst]	5.	goods	[gʊdz]	5.	stud <u>e</u> nt [ə]	[ˈstjudənt]
6.	claw	[klə]	6.	clause	[klɔz]	6.	forth	$[\theta:ch]$
7.	two	[tu]	7.	slew	[slu]	7.	hearts	[ha:ts]
8.	thorny	['θɔ:nɪ]	8.	laws	[lɔz]	8.	plausibly	[ˈplɔzɪblɪ]
9.	starts	[sta:ts]	9.	shot	[ʃat]	9.	fluid	[ˈfluɪd]
10.	calls	[kɔlz]	10.	balked	[bɔkt]	10.	salt	[səlt]
11.	put	[pʊt]	11.	calms	[kamz]	11.	took	[tʊk]
12.	swarm	[swɔ:m]	12.	fought	[fət]	12.	yawning	[ˈjɔnɪŋ]

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