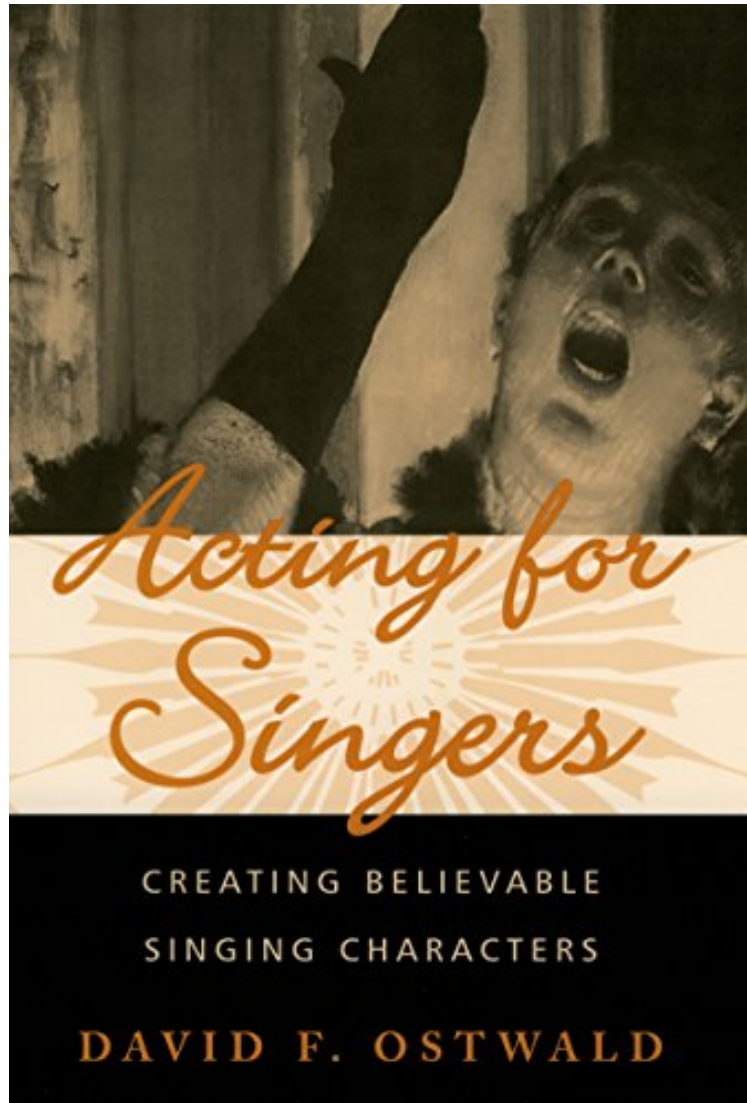


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Acting for Singers: Creating Believable Singing Characters

David F. Ostwald

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David F. Ostwald : Acting for Singers: Creating Believable Singing Characters before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Acting for Singers: Creating Believable Singing Characters:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding book on actingBy CustomerI highly recommend David Ostwald's book 'Acting for Singers' for any singing actor or vocal/dramatic coach. This book has been a staple of every major University in the country for a good reason. It is a fantastic resource for anyone aspiring for success as a singing actor in either Opera or Musical Theater. As a leading Soprano for major opera companies both here abroad, I can attest to the book's success on a personal level. Since a student at the San Francisco

Conservatory of Music through my singing career, and now as a Vocal Instructor David Ostwald's book is always on my bookshelf as a reference. His book describes in detail the hows of singing acting as well as teaching techniques and invaluable tips on preparing for auditions and performances. My first experience working with David Ostwald was as a participant in the San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program. His fresh approach, creative genius and great teaching and Acting practices were a profound experience and served me for years to come in my career. Years later, as Founder and Artistic Director of OperaFest NJ and OperaFest Italia, I was delighted to see the next generation of students benefit from his great teachings with both student and professional singing actors. David Ostwald knows how to unlock singers' emotions and translate them to the audience. There is no surprise that his book, "Acting for Singers" is such a success and that he continues to be in demand as a Stage Director. His tenures for many years as Acting Coach and Stage Director at Juilliard, Berkeley and SUNY Purchase underscore the high respect David enjoys in the Operatic University level.

Claudette Peterson, Leading Operatic Soprano, Vocal Instructor, Artistic Director

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful book for all stages of an operatic career

By L. Overton

I was looking for a book for my opera workshop class which would cover everything a young singer needed to know to open up his or her understanding of this beautiful art form. David Ostwald's book is it! Not only does he give perspective on the "whole" of the process, but he gives the details to build the whole. The book is laid out in such a way that one can spend a month working on the theme of a specific chapter, or the themes in detail can be incorporated into a semester's syllabus because it builds so succinctly topic by topic. He also gives helpful suggestions to the instructors as how to keep the exercises fresh and in an atmosphere of supported exploration. His "Ten Maxims of Believable Singing Acting" could be considered the Holy Grail for those choosing to make this beautiful musical expression their livelihood. I am grateful to the friends who said to David, "You should write down all this valuable information you have gathered over the course of your career so that all may benefit from your vision and experience."

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Lucid Guide for Both Aspiring and Veteran Singers

By Stewart Buettner

I came to this wonderful book as a long-time operagoer who has marveled at changes that have taken place over the last twenty years on the stages of opera houses worldwide, especially here in the U.S.. Not only can singers act, but they can do so convincingly. In fact, some can perform in such a way they don't seem to be making the effort either to sing or to act. This is one of the chief goals of Ostwald's thoughtful and very practical book. In it, he offers a variety of different techniques and exercises meant to guide singers through roles they can inhabit from the inside out. And he does this in a completely unforced manner that inspired the former high-school actor in me to attempt a few of his suggestions. All this helps explain some of the recent performances that stand out in my memory-singing actors who could hold their own, sometimes even outshine peers on the stage of any theater in the country. A straightforward, ultimately lucid guide to both aspiring and veteran singers.

Written to meet the needs of thousands of students and pre-professional singers participating in production workshops and classes in opera and musical theater, *Acting for Singers* leads singing performers step by step from the studio or classroom through audition and rehearsals to a successful performance. Using a clear, systematic, positive approach, this practical guide explains how to analyze a script or libretto, shows how to develop a character building on material in the score, and gives the singing performer the tools to act believably. More than just a "how-to" acting book, however, *Acting for Singers* also addresses the problems of concentration, trust, projection, communication, and the self-doubt that often afflicts singers pursuing the goal of believable performance. Part I establishes the basic principles of acting and singing together, and teaches the reader how to improvise as a key tool to explore and develop characters. Part II teaches the singer how to analyze theatrical work for rehearsing and performing. Using concrete examples from *Carmen* and *West Side Story*, and imaginative exercises following each chapter, this text teaches all singers how to be effective singing actors.

"[The book] has a great deal to offer to young professionals, as well as college and serious high school students and I highly recommend it to both teachers and students." --Carol Madill, Vocal Music Instructor and Fine Arts Department Head, Wyalusing Valley High School

"A fine text book...This is a well-designed systematic approach which clarifies a sequence of steps one can follow to develop convincing characters and interpretations in opera, musical theater, art songs and auditions." --Sarah Oppenheim-Beggs, Mezzo soprano, voice teacher, and choral director on Maui

"Singers and their teachers will benefit from this useful text that details the process of bringing believable characters to the stage." --Journal of Singing

About the Author David Ostwald has directed over 170 productions of operas and plays in academic and professional venues both here and abroad. He has specialized in teaching acting to singers, in which capacity he was on the faculty at The Juilliard School and at SUNY Purchase, where he was head of the Opera Program for twelve years. He has also taught and directed in major summer opera training programs.