



FACULTY OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA  
SHAH ALAM

DIFFICULTIES FACED BY VOCAL STUDENTS  
LACKING IN PIANO SKILLS

JOSEPHINE JURIE AK KUBU  
2012213576

BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION (Hons.)  
MU220

JULY 2015

## DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

"I declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for the quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged"

---

Date:

---

JOSEPHINE JURIE AK KUBU

2012213576

## **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study was to investigate difficulties face by vocal student without piano skills.

On the other hand, the study tries to identify the difficulties that vocal students faced without piano skills face when they practice what are the important piano skills every vocal student must have such as what do the difficulties they face during warm up as well as practice their repertoire. Beside it, it also investigates the important of piano among the vocal student in UiTM

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Statement of the Problems	2
1.3 Research Objectives	4
1.4 Research Questions	4
1.5 Significance of the Study	4
1.6 Scope of the Study	5
1.7 Definition of terms	5
<b>CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Introduction	6
2.2 Basics of vocal exercises	6
2.3 Knowledge of accompanying	7
2.4 Understanding piano skill	8
2.5 The process of voice training	9
2.6 Rhythmic knowledge	10
2.7 Difficulties faced by voice student during learning repertoire	10
2.8 Vocal warm up exercises	11
<b>CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY</b>	
3.1 Introduction	14
3.2 The research design	14
3.3 Sample	14
3.4 Research instrument	15
3.5 Pilot study	15
3.6 Data collection	15
<b>CHAPTER 4 RESULTS</b>	
4.1 Introduction	16
4.2 Demographic Profile Of Respondents	16
4.2.1 Music reading ability	17
4.2.2 Singing experiences	18
4.3 Warming up	18

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

The most available instrument, both economically and scientifically is the voice. One may not be able to afford a piano or any other instrument which may be costly, but the voice which is also an instrument, is always there. Since the vocal instrument allows human beings to automatically produce sound through speaking or by singing, the difference is in its use and intensity.

Learning to sing using correct techniques often takes time and energy. Singers understand that there are challenges in using their voice to make music. This is because in the process of learning to sing, a lot of time is spent in the practice room, voice students are often require to spend a lot of time rehearsing and are supposed to initiate and lead their own practice sessions. They must first of all know what a good vocal sound is and they must know how it feels like to produce such a sound. It is not easy for singers to hear their own voice and the process of acquiring singing skills takes time. This is the reason why all singers should have good practice habits when practicing their vocals. They often use the piano to make sure the sound produced are on the correct pitch. Giacchino (2013) stated that vocalists who wish to pursue a career in music must at least have moderate skills on the piano. Taking piano lessons before going to college is important. Having the ability to play an instrument gives a vocalist more value as a musician than being a vocalist.