

**PREFERRED METHODS OF LEARNING VOCAL REPERTOIRE AMONG VOICE  
STUDENTS FROM MUSIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF MUSIC, UiTM**

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## **Abstract**

The purpose of this study was to investigate the preferred method of learning new vocal repertoire among voice students in the Department of Music Education in, UiTM. Voice students in UiTM take practical one-to-one voice classes called Major Instrument. Apart from that they also take Performing Groups (Choir) and other classes such as Music theory, Music history and music education classes as well, all of which demands a lot of time and effort to manage time for study and do assignments. Voice students learn 5 vocal repertoires every semester. This present research was conducted to investigate how voice students learn their vocal repertoire, how they practiced learning their vocal repertoire using their preferred methods, and the perceived advantages and disadvantages of their preferred method. The sample comprised of 12 students, 6 males and 6 females from Year 1 to 3 the overall finding showed that voice students go through many stages when learning their repertoire. The study looked at whether students preferred using the manual learning method or learning through the use of technology. The overall finding concluded that voice students have to go through a lot of process to learn their vocal repertoire. Out of 12 respondents 70% of the voice students who participated in the study often used the technology method compared to 30% of voice students who used the manual learning.

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## Chapter 1: Background of the Study

### Introduction

Music practice has been always known to be the key to every musician's achievement. Studies had proven the need for practice not only among the beginners but also among intermediate, advanced learners and even professional musicians (Sloboda, Davidson, Howe & Moore, 1996).

Practice is very essential in music learning because by practicing students can gain more musical knowledge and develop their music skills. Time spent practicing is crucial in helping musicians to achieve more success. Music students especially need a lot of practice for a lack of practice will impact on the development of musical skills. Regardless of whether a musician is a singer or instrumentalist regular practice is a must, as stated below.

*“You have to learn your music properly, you can't simply listen through recording and sing it...please don't make other things weaker than your talent. Learning repertoire comes with a process and there are methods of learning music...”*

*(Dame Loh Siew Tuan, Promusica Masterclass, Jun 21, 2011).*

Formal music training in voice requires singers to learn various skills. For example, the technical skills of singing, voice production and breathing are some basic skills that singers have to learn in order to sing effectively. For voice students in UiTM learning classical music is part of the curriculum. Students learn repertoire in foreign languages mostly Italian, German, and Malay art songs. French vocal repertoire is often given later depending on the capability of the student, when familiarity with the Italian and German is gained.

Regardless of program level, that is Diploma or the Bachelor's degree, music students need to learn the various types of music and their varying styles. For voice students, repertoire such as