

# MUSICAL THEATRE VOICE CLASS

*with kahrie galo*

## Twang

### Purpose, qualities, and characteristics:

Twang gives you freedom and power. This vocal quality lends itself well to musical theatre because it is powerful and bright without strain or constriction. With practice, it can even sound resonant.

It should feel easy; it takes pressure off your voice.

**How it works: The aryepiglottic sphincter** (*ar-ē-, ep-ə- 'glāt-ik*), abbreviated as AES

Aryepiglottic sphincter: A muscular ring at the top of the larynx, formed by aryepiglottic folds (tissue connecting the epiglottis to arytenoid cartilages) that can narrow the airway.

When the AES is narrowed, it causes a bright, focused sound.

### Exercise:

Do it speaking first so that you can implement it into singing in a healthy way.

1. **Normal speaking voice - ABCD**

2. **Higher speaking voice - ABCD**

The larynx will move up - don't force it- allow it to happen naturally. Physically feel the larynx move. The tongue will be raised in the back.

3. **To feel where your tongue should be, practice sliding down on an ee. Go back and forth between an open ee with resonance to an ee with twang**

4. **Speak ABCD - Alternate between normal speaking voice and higher speaking voice with twang, feeling the difference**

Do it lightly and quietly at first- don't push. Aim for a small, focused sound. This should feel easy, not pressured or forced.

5. **Practice ee with resonance vs ee with twang - alternate**

6. **Start vocalizing on a 5-note scale- Me or nyee**

7. **Practice more differentiating between resonant and twang qualities**

Remember- don't push! It should feel easy.

8. **Start implementing twang into your own repertoire!**

Video reference:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSo4Tr8KhnU>