

## VOCAL STYLISMS

### **Legit**

Bent notes  
Cry  
Onsets: soft glottal click, breathy  
Portamentos  
Swinging the note  
Tails  
Vibrato

### **Blues/Jazz**

Add-on notes  
Bent notes  
Cry  
Delayed Vibrato  
Fall offs/ups  
Fry  
Growls  
Pop Appoggiatura  
Retracting Tongue  
Scatting  
Slides  
Swinging the note  
Tails  
Waves

### **Country**

Add-on notes  
Bent notes  
Cry  
Fall offs/ups  
Fry  
Growls  
Pop Appoggiatura  
Retracting Tongue  
Riffs or Wails  
Slides  
Swinging the note  
Tails  
Waves  
Yodel

### **Pop/Rock**

Add-on note  
Cry  
Fall off  
Flip onsets (pop appoggiatura)  
Fry  
Growls  
Onsets: hard glottal, soft glottal click, breathy  
Retracting Tongue  
Riffs or Wails  
Scream  
Shouts  
Slides  
Tails  
Waves  
Register shift/Yodel

### **R&B/ Gospel**

Add-on notes  
Cry  
Fall offs/ups  
Flip onsets (pop appoggiatura)  
Fry  
Growls  
Onsets: hard glottal, soft glottal click, breathy  
Retracting Tongue  
Riffs or Wails  
Scream  
Shadow Vowels  
Shouts  
Slides  
Tails  
Waves  
Yodel

### **Character**

Add-on notes  
Bent notes  
Cry  
Delayed Vibrato  
Fall offs/ups  
Growls  
Onsets: hard glottal, soft glottal click, breathy  
Pop Appoggiatura  
Retracting Tongue  
Scream  
Shouts  
Slides  
Swinging the note  
Tails  
Waves  
Yodel

**Breathy:** initiated before or after tone. Blues, Country, Gospel, Jazz, Pop, R&B and character roles

**Fry:** (sometimes creaky; the arytenoid cartilages drawn together and causes the vocal folds to compress tightly onset or release – sounds like a rattling sound): Country, Gospel, Jazz, Pop, R&B and character roles

**Fall-Offs:** one note sliding down to no specific pitch

**Fall-Ups:** one note sliding up to no specific pitch. Country, Gospel, Jazz, Pop, R&B and character roles

**Slides:** steady slide upward or downward, End Slide-ups, Fry slide

**Bending/added blue note:** (a short slide from 1/2 note below). Used in Blues, Country, Gospel, Jazz, Pop, R&B and Torch songs

**Flip onsets/Pop Appoggiatura:** accented grace note from below (1/2 step); often quick. Used in Blues, Country, Gospel, Jazz, Pop, R&B

**Cry** (grace note from above-sounds like a whine): Used in Blues, Country, Gospel, Pop, R&B and torch songs for emotion

**Add-on notes in Country:** similar to a pop appoggiatura, uses the prior note as the accent to the next note (usually a third or more higher/lower)

**Swinging the note:** dotted eighth notes followed by sixteenth notes. Used in Blues, Country and Jazz styles

**Yodel or Flip:** intentional register shifts from chest to head for effect. Used in Bluegrass, Country, Pop

**Growls:** low, guttural sound. False folds and pharyngeal constriction. Used for character roles, Country, Pop, Rock, R&B, Gospel

**Onsets:** hard glottal, soft glottal click, breathy onset

**Screams:** higher pitch sound with extreme intensity. Used in Pop, Rock, R&B, Gospel

**Shadow Vowel Release:** (follows final vowel or consonant sound) “you-uh”. Used in character roles, R&B, Gospel

**Shouts:** Gospel, R&B, character roles

**Retracting Tongue** – Country, Bluegrass, Gospel, R&B

**Waves:** < > < >

**Tails:** 3 & 5 note descending patterns with decrescendo. Used in Country, Pop, R&B, Gospel, Blues

**Vibrato:** Fast, Wide, Delayed

**Delayed Vibrato:** Adding a little vibrato towards the end of a long belt note.

**Pop Improvisations:**

**Licks:** Brief improvisation – a distinctive few notes, short phrase in pop music or jazz, often improvised

**Riffs or Wails:** longer improvisational phrases

Most improvisations can be traced back to classical ornaments.

**Improvising Rule of Thumb**

- Establish original melody first
- Same words/change notes
- Vary the words
- Riffs, Licks, Scatting

## **Phrasing**

**Anticipations:** coming in before the expected beat

**Back phrasing:** coming in after the expected beat

**Syncopations:** weak beat gets the accent

**Swung 1/8 notes**