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What is the difference between “sung-speech” and “rhythmic diction”? Where is each style more appropriate?

Sung-speech is when word blends into word because final consonants are connected to initial consonants of following words. This is used when rhythmic integrity is not as important as the style of the flow of the music. Rhythmic diction is used to maintain rhythmic integrity and is sung by spacing the syllables of words individually to emphasize the rhythm of each note. Syllables are not to be smeared in this type of singing especially across slurs. The main difference between these two is that in sung-speech, the rhythmic integrity is not important whereas in rhythmic diction it is the main focus. The appropriate time to use sung-speech is when popular music and ballads are being performed. In this type of music, the styles are the most important for the flow of the music. The appropriate time to use rhythmic diction is when performing Baroque and Classical era music. In this music, it is important to have clarity of rhythm and diction so it sounds like a dance. Each of these styles of rehearsing diction are effective in their own way. They bring out those styles and flows of music that best communicates the idea of the music. When used in the classroom, both of these styles can be used to help students best develop diction techniques and expand their knowledge of how certain types of music are to be sung.