

## **PEVOC8 ABSTRACT: “The Usage of a Decibel Meter in Singing Training”**

**Author:** Kim Chandler MMus (Distinction) BmusEd AmusA

Many private singing tutors worldwide are embracing and integrating the objective measurement and biofeedback of various aspects of the singing voice offered by the use of various scientific apparatus into their singing lessons: e.g. spectographic analysis, frequency measurement etc. This author has begun to employ the benefits of using a portable decibel (sound level) meter in the training of contemporary, professional vocalists who struggle with adjusting either hyperfunctional or hypofunctional voice use in regard to singing acoustically with excessive or restricted volume respectively.

It has been this author’s experience that hyperfunctional and hypofunctional singers do not necessarily respond sufficiently to verbal instructions from their teacher to sing more quietly or loudly (a subjective instruction) as these types of clients are often quite out of touch with the reality of what they are doing whilst they are in the process of singing. Despite being only in the early stages of employing this particular strategy in singing training, this author has already discovered that the objectification of the volume being sung afforded by the use of a decibel meter has so far been highly effective in changing more quickly the relative volumes being sung than verbal instructions alone have previously.

For example, an instruction by this author to a singer to hold the decibel meter at a consistent distance from the mouth (e.g. 30 cms) and sing a particular passage from a song at “...*at no louder than 85 db*” for instance seems to enable the singer to change the sung volume almost immediately to the level desired by the teacher due to the singer having a specific goal and an objectified read out to follow. It is suggested by the author that this particular affordable and easily portable piece of scientific apparatus may have a unique place in this regard in the private singing studio, and is yet another example of the efficient integration of science and vocal pedagogy.

Official website: [www.kimchandler.net](http://www.kimchandler.net)

Session Singer and Pop Vocal Coach (of professional singers and artists)

Part-time Senior Lecturer – London College of Music (Popular Music Performance)

Director – British Voice Association