

Potential vocal issues for “It’s a Long Way”

Soprano

Measure 1 - Beginning this line lightly (more head voice than chest voice) will be critical to singing the pianissimo dynamic.

Measure 3 - Choosing a vowel that allows you to keep the character of the piece while still making it possible to crescendo. Maintaining the vowel space as you breathe and re-enter on the same vowel.

Pickup to Measure 6 - Relating the vowels of the first two words - “But” and “Long” - starting the phrase with the position of the highest note in mind. Maintain that position throughout.

Measure 8 - Do not let your vocal position collapse during the small breath.

Pickup to Measure 15 - Get your vocal position and breath support ready for the leaps to come in 16-18.

Measure 17 - Finding the right vowels to navigate this range and dynamic.

Measure 22 - Finding the best vowel to use for that word and dynamic.

Measure 26 - Diphthongs and a decrescendo in a potentially difficult part of the range. Experiment with support and vowels to find what works best.

Measure 33 - Preparing during the breath to enter in a very different register than when “shore” cuts off.

Pickup to Measure 39 - Preparing to sing a rising line that descends - Breath Support - good vowel choice on “more” that allows for a decrescendo.

Alto

Pickup to Measure 1 - Beginning this line with the high note and dynamic in mind. Breathe through the position you will need to ascend gracefully to the high note.

Measures 2-4 - Do not add weight during the descending line.

Pickup to measure 6 - Beginning this line with the high note and dynamic in mind. Breathe through the position you will need to ascend gracefully to the high note.

Measure 8 - Do not let the quick breath collapse your vowel space or breath support.

Pickup to Measure 12 - Let the vowel space on "And" "Love" and "Must" be related (keep "a" in the sound)

Measure 13 - Relax - don't push.

Measures 15-17 - Keep a warm tone through the duet - be aware of diphthongs in measures 17/18.

Measure 22 - 27 - Keep a warm tone through the duet - be aware of diphthongs.

Pickup to Measure 29 - Beginning this line with the high note and dynamic in mind. Breathe through the position you will need to ascend gracefully to the high note.

Measure 33 - Breathe with the position and support you will need to make the octave jump.

Tenor

Pickup to Measure 1 - Beginning this line with the high note, vowel space, and dynamic in mind. Breathe through the position you will need to ascend gracefully to the high note.

Measure 3 - Maintain position and posture through the eighth note rest.

Measure 5 - Beginning this line with the high note, vowel space, and dynamic in mind. Breathe through the position you will need to ascend gracefully to the high note.

Measure 8 - Maintain position and posture through the eighth note rest.

Pickup to Measure 13 - Good breath and vocal position with the wide range and leaps of these bars in mind.

Measure 19 - Keep the words "Must", "And", and "Love" with a similar vowel space.

Pickup to Measure 21 - Good breath and vocal position with the wide range and leaps of these bars in mind.

Measure 26 - Beware of diphthongs! Consider a closed [e] vowel for the word "day" to help.

Pickup to Measure 29 - Beginning this line with the high note, vowel space, and dynamic in mind. Breathe through the position you will need to ascend gracefully to the high note.

Pickup to Measure 39 - Consider breath and vocal positioning through the short rest. A descending line with a decrescendo and ritardando is coming up!

Bass

Pickup to Measure 1 - It will always be tempting for basses to add weight to a descending line such as we see in the first four measures of this piece. Be conscious of staying light and with good space.

Measure 3 - The vowels on "blow" and "O-ver" should be similar. Do not let the quick breath during the eighth rest disrupt that good vowel space.

Pickup to Measure 6 - Make the vowels in "But" and "Long-er" more closely related - (more open o) - and breathe through that space.

Measure 8 - Do not let the quick breath collapse your vowel space or breath support.

Measure 13 - As you crescendo try to keep a warm vowel space and consistent breath support.

Pickup to 18 - Good breath and vocal position with the wide range and leaps of these bars in mind.

Measure 20 - Keep the vowels on "love" and "must" open and closely related to one another.

Measure 23 - Good breath and vocal position with the wide range and leaps of these bars in mind.

Measure 27 - Beware of three consecutive words with diphthongs!

Measure 29 - Be conscious of staying light and with good space as the line descends.

Measure 32 - Large descending leaps may have a tendency to carry too much weight, accidentally increasing volume or causing the pitch to be low.

Measure 37 - Large descending leaps may have a tendency to carry too much weight, accidentally increasing volume or causing the pitch to be low.