

Memorization Tips

Let's say you are trying to memorize "Caro mio ben"

1. Write out the words of the song in a way that shows their rhyme scheme

Sometimes I use all the words, including repeats, sometimes not, depending what I think will help most.

2. Most of the time if we can remember the first word of a line we can get to the end of it. Then we have trouble connecting to the next line. Rewrite the words, connecting the last word of a line with the first word(s) of the next line. Then try to think of any connection

Caro mio

Ben Credimi B word followed by c word

(Al)men Sen(za) men and sen rhyme

di te languisce languishes for you

il cor il tuo Parallel construction

fedel sospira the faithful one sighs

3. Make index cards of the words of your song, based on both of the above. So one card says "Caro mio ben" on one side and "credimi almen" on the back. Another card will say "Ben Credimi" on one side and "almen senza" on the back. I also add the translations to the back side of the card. So the front might say "caro mio ben" and the back would say "My dear beloved—credimi almen—believe me at least. (This way others can help me with the flash cards. They can get the

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7. Practice singing your song, and writing out by hand the first letter of each word as you sing. So for "caro mio ben," you would write "cmb cma sdt lic." You write about one letter in the time it takes to sing a word. I noticed this when I was directing scenes like the letter duet from Figaro or Baby Doe's letter aria.
8. Turn the poems (without the music) into acting exercises, including all the repeats. You have to find a reason for and