VOICE WORK: ART AND SCIENCE IN CHANGING VOICES

Voice Work: Art and Science in Changing Voices is a key work which uniquely addresses the theoretical and experiential aspects common to the practical vocal work of three major voice practitioner professions – voice training, singing teaching, and speech and language pathology.

In this 220,000-word volume, Christina Shewell describes the physical foundations, as well as the practical nature of voice work, and offers a wide range of ideas to work on both spoken and singing voices. The science behind the voice is described in a scholarly but user-friendly approach, and linked to a wide range of practical voice exercises, relevant to all voice practitioners. A groundbreaking new perceptual voice scheme for analysing voice, the Voice Skills Perceptual Profile, is introduced, and is applicable to those working in both the development and remediation of voice. There are numerous case stories interspersed in the book, which bring to life the wide range of clients - and their journeys – with whom Shewell has worked over the past 35 years. These include actors, singers, politicians, senior managers and other public speakers, alongside many other clients with voice disorders. There is also a linked website of audio files to illustrate the voice qualities and exercises described in the book.

Christina Shewell MA, FRCSLT, ADVS is one of the finest voice therapists and voice teachers in the UK, with qualifications in both fields. Her highly acclaimed workshops are sought after by singing teachers, speech pathologists and theatre voice teachers both nationally and internationally, and she also works and trainer and coach with many professional voice users. She has worked for many years as both a hospital and private practice speech therapist specializing in voice, and she is also a qualified theatre voice teacher, communication skills trainer and voice consultant for singers. For six years, Christina was on the drama staff at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, worked with singers there and coached dialect for the Royal Shakespeare Company; she currently teaches on the MA Voice Studies at Central School of Speech and Drama. Having worked for nine years as lecturer in voice and counselling skills at the department of Human Communication Science, University College London, she now holds an honorary senior lectureship at UCL. She has also worked extensively with businesses and institutions, and with groups of psychotherapists, including the Marion Woodman Foundation in Zurich. Christina has taught her Voice Skills approach extensively to varied voice practitioners throughout the UK, and in Canada, Germany, India and Australia.

REVIEWS

‘Voice Work: Art and Science in Changing Voices’ has received unanimously good reviews. Samples include:

SPEECH PATHOLOGY/ THERAPY ‘The text explores with consistency the uniqueness of the multidisciplinary voice world… There is no similar publication in our field… Besides the extensive written material, the book includes access to more than 100 audio samples that illustrate different situations addressed in the book, including exercises… This is a must-have publication for all health, educational and arts professionals working with individuals who want to improve or rehabilitate their voices.’ Mara Behlau, Director Centro do Estudos da Voz (CEV Centre for Voice Studies) Sao Paulo Brazil, The International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders

SPOKEN VOICE COACHING ‘An important and unique book that should be embraced by the voice world and owned by anyone working with the human voice.’ Patsy Rodenburg ‘It has a huge amount of technical knowledge but is still readable and full of humanity.’ Actor Henry Goodman. ‘Since I’ve been using the VSPP my work with clients has improved ten-fold. Working through the protocol gives the client a sense that they are being heard and listened to. It has also given me an objective way to work through all the things that make up a voice.’ Suzanne Park, Voice teacher

SINGING ‘I whole-heartedly recommend that you invest in this book, as I am sure that you will find it an essential reference book and an inspiration for years to come. Sue Anderson, Journal of the Association of Teachers of Singing UK ‘The work that has gone into it is impressive, and encapsulates everything that she is as a person... full of humanity and integrity, hugely experienced, nurturing, joyous, enormously generous.’ Pam Parry, Singer: British Voice Association ‘For voice teachers and practitioners looking for an essential book to add to their collection of vocal reference books, this is the perfect choice… As a teacher in a school for the performing arts, I found the common sense suggestions in working with voices, along with the many photographs absolutely exciting.’ Shawna Gottfredson, Classical Singer (United States)