Unit Three: Overview

In this unit we will explore setting lyrics. There are many aspects to setting lyrics we will need to think about, stress, prosody, form, etc. The unit is comprised of several different handouts, videos, exercises and assignments. I hope you can explore them all!

The videos are grouped in three different areas as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Theatre Song Types** | **Setting a Lyric** | **Examples & Formatting** |
| * Ballade * Charm/Rhythm Up-tempo * Comedy Song * Musical Scene * Large Ensemble | * Setting a Lyric * Lyric Form * Prosody * Melodic Shape * Rhythmic Settings * Rhyme * Multiple Voice Settings * Song Form * Patter Song | * Shape * Motive * Formatting |

In addition to the information presented above, some further terms for this unit include the following: s may be referenced as follows:

* Opening Number — opens the show
* Want Song — Sung by the main character to launch the action of the show
* Eleven O’Clock Number: Usually the climactic song, sung late in the show
* Finale: Closing number to the show

Assignments in this unit include analyzing a poem as a lyric, analyzing lyrics and creating melodies to lyrics for which you likely do not know any previous musical setting.

Just as there is a lot to think about with writing for the voice, there is a lot of information in this unit. I hope you have time to view/read it, ponder it, and apply it. Enjoy exploring!