Phonetic Transcription for Lyric Diction

A graded method of phonetic transcription that employs frequently occurring words from Italian, German, French, and Latin lyrics

Cheri Montgomery

PREFACE

Phonetic Transcription for Lyric Diction offers an efficient approach to the study of Italian, German, French, and Latin transcription. It is second in a two-part series. *Phonetic Readings for Lyric Diction* is the introductory text. Together, these workbooks address enunciation and transcription respectively. Enunciation of the English, Italian, German, French, and Latin languages is established in part one so that students are adequately prepared for the rigorous approach to transcription provided in part two.

The word lists in this text were generated from the lyrics of more than 5,000 art songs. Lyric words were organized in order of frequency of occurrence and categorized according to Italian, German, French, and Latin speech sounds as defined by the International Phonetic Alphabet. Worksheets were created from the word lists and arranged according to a strategic order of rules. This design streamlines the approach to teaching lyric diction and allows the instructor to cover Italian, German, French, and Latin transcription in a 15 week course.

Each unit highlights a specified set of symbols by providing rules for transcription, a group assignment, and 12 individually assigned word lists. Units progress in cumulative order culminating with exercises that allow students to transcribe and enunciate phrases from art song lyrics and Liturgical Latin texts. A study of articulatory phonetics is included with consonant and vowel charts for student application and definition of terms. Comprehensive exams and review of rules are provided for each language.

I invite the reader to see the appendix of *Exploring Art Song Lyrics,* published by Oxford University Press, for a comparative analysis of my method of transcription.

This text would not be possible without generous help from many individuals. I wish to thank Dr. Corradina Caporello, Professor of Italian diction at the Juilliard School, for her excellent guidance. She finalized the rules for enunciation and transcription in the *Italian Lyric Diction Workbook* which were again applied in the Italian portions of this book. Dr. Daniel Solomon, professor of Classical Studies at Vanderbilt University, is the Latin and Italian language and translation editor. Sarah Köllner, editor of the *Athenäum - Jahrbuch der Friedrich Schlegel-Gesellschaft*, is the German text and translation editor. Cecile Moreau is the French language and translation editor. Their expertise is much appreciated.

The *Lyric Diction Workbook Series* was created to make the lyric languages accessible to singers. Familiarity is gained as numerous words are encountered. The series was designed to make grading easier for instructors. Accurate transcription and proficiency of memorized rules is assessed through in-class enunciation. *Phonetic Readings for Lyric Diction* and *Phonetic Transcription for Lyric Diction* are intended for the two semester study. Together, they introduce students to the lyric languages through transcription and enunciation of a rich vocabulary.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

UNIT 2:

Italian vowels and semivowels

RULES FOR TRANSCRIPTION

Italian vowels and semivowels

Spelling	IPA	Sample Words
Initial vowel words (there are no glottal stops in Italian)	[ʔ] Glottal Stop	am<u>a</u>nti [aˈmanti]
Stressed syllable (the stress mark precedes the stressed syllable)	[ˈ] Stress Mark	l<u>a</u>mpada [ˈlampada]
a	[a] Bright [a]	farf<u>a</u>lla [farˈfalla]
e in stressed syllable (*dictionary required)	[ɛ] Open Front	et<u>ɛ</u>rno [eˈtɛrno]
e in stressed syllable (*dictionary required)	[e] Closed Front	fed<u>e</u>le [feˈdele]
e in unstressed syllables	[e]	seren<u>a</u>te [sereˈnate]
h (*h* is silent in Italian)	[h] Glottal Fricative	<u>h</u>anno [ˈanno]
i (as the single vowel in the syllable)	[i] Closed Front	infin<u>i</u>to [infiˈnito]
i + vowel	[j] Prepalatal Glide	pensi<u>ɛ</u>ro [penˈsjɛro]
o in stressed syllable (*dictionary required)	[ɔ] Open Back	conf<u>ɔ</u>rto [konˈfɔrto]
o in stressed syllable (*dictionary required)	[o] Closed Back	prof<u>o</u>ndo [proˈfondo]
o in unstressed syllables	[o]	gioc<u>o</u>ndo [dʒoˈkondo]
u (as the single vowel in the syllable)	[u] Closed Back	fut<u>u</u>ra [fuˈtuɾa]
u + vowel	[w] Bilabial Glide	nu<u>ɔ</u>vo [ˈnwɔvo]
Double consonant (all double consonants are doubled)	[ll]	brill<u>a</u>re [brilˈlaɾe]

STRESS MARK

The stress mark is placed before a single consonant: *anɛllo* [aˈnɛllo], between double consonants: *cammino* [kamˈmino], or after the first *r, m, n, s,* or *l* of a consonant cluster: *beltà* [belˈta] (memory aid: *har<u>mon</u>iou<u>sl</u>y*).

* A dictionary is required in order to determine the closed or open quality of *e* and *o* in a stressed syllable. It is not possible to identify the stressed syllable without a dictionary. The following worksheets provide pronunciation indications within the Italian text. The vowel of the stressed syllable is underlined with transcription of *e* and *o* indicated within the underlined text. Words with vowels in hiatus have one vowel underlined. Example: *affettu<u>o</u>so* [affettuˈozo]

CLASSWORK #2: Italian vowels and semivowels

Provide IPA:

1. matt<u>i</u>na   (morning)   5. nov<u>ɛ</u>lla   (short story)

2. <u>o</u>nde   (waves)   6. li<u>ɛ</u>ve   (light)

3. lam<u>e</u>nti   (complaints)   7. bu<u>ɔ</u>no   (good)

4. ved<u>u</u>to   (seen)   8. d<u>ɔ</u>nne   (women)

TRANSCRIPTION WITHIN THE PHRASE #2: Vowel clusters

Vowel clusters within the phrase occur before initial vowel words. Identical vowels that are adjacent within the phrase are not rearticulated: *pɛrle elɛtte* [ˈpɛrleˈlɛtte]. An unstressed final *i* followed by an initial vowel word becomes a [j] glide: *dɔrmi amore* [ˈdɔrmjaˈmoɾe]. Provide IPA:

> *and from me she hopes only for bread and not for gold.*

Classwork: e da me s<u>o</u>la asp<u>ɛ</u>tta del pan e non dell'ɔr.

1. *Without hope of happiness,*
   S<u>ɛ</u>nza sp<u>ɛ</u>me di dil<u>ɛ</u>tto
       ts

2. *of your glimmering shoulders,*
   de le n<u>i</u>tide sp<u>a</u>lle,

3. *Don't you hear in your soul?*
   Non s<u>ɛ</u>nti tu ne l'<u>a</u>nima

4. *on the path of the stars*
   pel camm<u>i</u>no d<u>e</u>lle st<u>e</u>lle
       k

5. *Invitation to the dance*
   Inv<u>i</u>to <u>a</u>lla d<u>a</u>nza
                       ts

6. *Do not rise at the new sun.*
   non ti d<u>ɛ</u>sti al n<u>o</u>vo s<u>o</u>le.

7. *in the veil of the night.*
   de la n<u>ɔ</u>tte nel v<u>e</u>lo.

8. *Don't you smell in the air?*
   Non s<u>ɛ</u>nti tu ne l'<u>a</u>ria
                       ɾ

9. *you cast upon my heart:*
   nel p<u>ɛ</u>tto m'avv<u>ɛ</u>nti:

10. *full of passion*
    pi<u>ɛ</u>na di passi<u>o</u>ne

11. *you only, you only*
    tu solt<u>a</u>nto, tu solt<u>a</u>nto

12. *The ladies on the balcony*
    Le d<u>ɔ</u>nne sul balc<u>o</u>ne
                       k

WORKSHEET #2: Italian vowels and semivowels

Provide IPA:

#5

volo	(flight)
umile	(humble)
momento	(moment)
fɔlle	(deranged)
vɛnto	(wind)
pietate	(pity)
duɔmo	(cathedral)

#6

nume	(heavens)
monti	(mountains)
vɔlle	(wanted)
pianto	(I plant)
ɛbbe	(he had)
buɔn	(good)
mente	(mind)

#7

affɛtto	(affection)
nɔve	(nine)
venuto	(come)
fonte	(source)
benedɛtto	(blessed)
tiɛni	(you hold)
muɔvo	(I move)

#8

udite	(you hear)
l'uɔmo	(the man)
dove	(where)
nebbia	(fog)
tɔlto	(removed)
vede	(sees)
poɛta	(poet)

UNIT 9:

German back vowels and *v*

RULES FOR TRANSCRIPTION

German back vowels and *v*

Spelling	IPA	Sample Words
o + one consonant	[oː] Long Closed Back	Loben [ˈloːbən]
oh	[oː]	Wohnung [ˈvoːnʊŋ]
oo	[oː]	Boot [boːt]
Final *o*	[oː]	so [zoː]
o + two or more consonants	[ɔ] Short Open Back	Pforte [ˈpfɔrtə]
u + one consonant	[uː] Long Closed Back	Tugend [ˈtuːgənt]
uh	[uː]	Ruhe [ˈɾuːə]
Final *u*	[uː]	tu [tuː]
u + two or more consonants	[ʊ] Short Open Back	Wunder [ˈvʊndəʁ]
Initial and final *v*	[f] Labiodental Fricative	Vater [ˈfɑːtəʁ] brav [bɾɑːf] (intervocalic *v* [v]: Klav<u>ie</u>r [klɑˈviːr])
v in words of foreign origin	[v] Labiodental Fricative	Violine [vioˈliːnə]

CLASSWORK #9: German back vowels and *v*

Provide IPA:

1. Vogel   (bird)
2. Munde   (mouth)
3. Boot   (boat)
4. holder   (gentle)
5. Wehmut   (melancholy)
6. Ohr   (ear)
7. du   (you)
8. Ton   (tone)

TRANSCRIPTION WITHIN THE PHRASE #9: Exception Words

German exception words are listed on page 88. The closed vowel exception words follow patterns in spelling. The open vowel exception words are few in number but frequently occurring. It is necessary to memorize the open vowel exception words and vowel *r* words before completing the following phrases. Provide IPA:

the hat flew off my head,

Classwork: Der Hut flog mir vom Kopfe,
                             k

1. *he comes to you nevermore.*
   Er kommt dir nimmermehr.

2. *in God's clear morning!*
   In Gottes hellen Morgen!

3. *O death, how bitter are you*
   O Tod, wie bitter bist du,
        t

4. *you find rest there!*
   Du fändest Ruhe dort!

5. *and the breath of the beasts*
   und der Odem des Viehes
        t

6. *the sky until morning*
   Der Himmel bis zum Morgen
             ts

7. *for love and love's pain.*
   Vor Liebe und Liebesweh.
              t

8. *then you would go in a golden cloud,*
   Gehst du in gold'ner Wolke,

9. *the morning will come*
   Kommen wird der Morgen,
              t

10. *mother advised me wisely,*
    Mutter, die rät' mir klug,
                  k

11. *like the kiss from her mouth*
    Wie der Kuss von ihrem Mund,
                  t

12. *You are the rest, you are the peace,*
    Du bist die Ruh, du bist der Frieden,

WORKSHEET #9: German back vowels and *v*

Provide IPA:

#9

		### #10	
Rot	(red)	Duft	(scent)
nun	(now)	oft	(often)
Vesper	(vespers)	Flut	(flood)
Wort	(word)	Moos	(moss)
ohne	(without)	buhlen	(to court)
Turm	(tower)	Brot	(bread)
desto	(the more)	Vetter	(cousin)

#11

		### #12	
tu	(do)	Boden	(soil)
Tor	(gate)	voll	(fully)
Brunnen	(well)	hohen	(high)
vern<u>o</u>mmen *(r [ʁ])*	(heard)	nur	(only)
gut	(good)	dort	(there)
Morgen	(tomorrow)	so *(s is [z])*	(so)
wohl	(probably)	unter	(under)

UNIT 15:

French consonants

RULES FOR TRANSCRIPTION

French Consonants

Spelling	IPA	Sample Words
Initial vowel words	[ʔ] Glottal Stop	There are no glottal stops in French: été [ete]
Stress is not indicated in French transcription	[ˈ] Stress Mark	The penultimate syllable is stressed in final schwa words. The final syllable is stressed for other words: amie [ami]
c + *a, â, o, ô,* or consonant	[k] Velar Plosive (Stop)	calme [kalmə] éclate [eklatə]
c + *i, y, e, é, è, ê*	[s] Dental Fricative	docile [dɔsilə] céleste [selɛstə] descends [d(e)sɑ̃]
ç	[s]	garçon [gaʀsõ]
ch	[ʃ] Prepalatal Fricative	chevalier [ʃəvalje] (except: écho [eko] and chœur [kœr])
g + *a, â, o, ô,* or consonant	[g] Velar Plosive (Stop)	goutte [gutə] glacé [glase]
g + *i, y, e, é, è, ê*	[ʒ] Prepalatal Fricative	givre [ʒivʀə] songe [sõʒə]
gn	[ɲ] Prepalatal Nasal	montagne [mõtaɲə]
gu (silent *u*)	[g]	guérir [geʀiʀ]
h	[h] Glottal Fricative	*h* is silent in all positions: hélas [elɑs]
j	[ʒ] Prepalatal Fricative	jour [ʒuʀ]
qu (silent *u*)	[k] Velar Plosive (Stop)	quelque [kɛlkə] qui [ki]
r	[ɾ] Flipped *r*	regard [ɾəgaɾ]
Spelling *z* and intervocalic *s*	[z] Dental Fricative	horizon [ɔrizõ] présence [prezɑ̃sə]
All other *s, ss*	[s] Dental Fricative	soupirs [supiɾ] (final *s* is silent) aussi [osi]
Final *-tion, -tiel,* and *-tieux*	[s]	affection [afɛksjõ] essentiel [(e)sɑ̃sjɛl]
x + consonant	[ks]	extase [ɛkstɑzə] (except: fixe [fiksə] luxe [lyksə])
x + vowel or *h*	[gz]	exacte [ɛgzaktə] exhaler [ɛgzale]

Final consonants are silent except final *c, r, f, l* (memory aid: *careful*). See page 194 for exceptions. Consonants that are doubled in spelling are not doubled in transcription except for initial *ill, irr, inn,* and *imm*. The consonant *n* is silent when preceded by a nasal vowel. The spelling *b* becomes a voiceless *p* when followed by an *s* or *t*: *obscur* [ɔpskyɾ]. Spellings *ph* is [f] and *th* is [t].

CLASSWORK #15: French consonants

1. délicate   (delicate)
   [deli__atə]

2. chevaux   (horses)
   [__əvo__]

3. visage   (face)
   [vi__a__ə]

4. leçon   (lesson)
   [lə__õ__]

5. unique   (unique)
   [yni__ə]

6. toujours   (always)
   [tu__u____]

7. fatigue   (fatigue)
   [fati__ə]

8. signal   (signal)
   [__i__a__]

9. beige   (beige)
   [bɛ__ə]

10. grâces   (thanksgiving)
    [____ɑ__ə__]

TRANSCRIPTION WITHIN THE PHRASE #15: Liaison

A final consonant is enunciated when followed by an initial vowel word. Exceptions apply. Forbidden liaison is indicated with a " | " mark. Phonetic changes occur. Final *d, f, g, s, and x* become [t], [v], [k], [z]: *Les oiseaux | avec leurs ailes* [lez wazo avɛk lœrz ɛlə]. A summary of rules is given on page 194. Refer to *The Interpretation of French Song* by Pierre Bernac, *Singing in French* by Thomas Grubb, and *Sing French* by Eileen Davis for all rules governing liaison.

we will exchange one sole spark,
Classwork: Nous échangerons un éclair unique,
      [nu_ e_ã_ərõ_ œ̃_ e_lɛ_ yni_ə]

1. *searching for you on some roads unknown,*
   cherchant jusqu'à toi des routes inconnues,
   [__ɛr_ã _ys_a twa dɇ rutə_ ɛ̃_ɔnyə_]

2. *I love your eyes, I love your mouth*
   J'aime tes yeux, j'aime ta bouche
   [_ɛmə tɇ_ jø _ɛmə ta bu_ə]

3. *the countryside, the woods, the charming shadows,*
   La campagne, les bois, les ombrages charmants,
   [la _ãpa_ə lɇ bwɑ lɇ_ õbrɑ_ə _armã_]

4. *the clouds, startled, have disappeared*
   les nuages effarouchés | ont disparu.
   [lɇ nɥa_ə_ (e)faru_e õ disparɣ]

5. *a sweet, noble agreement:*
   Un doux accord patricien:
   [œ̃ du_ a_ɔ_ patri_jɛ̃_]

6. *Our love is a light thing*
   Notre amour est chose légère
   [nɔtr amu_ ɇ _o_ə le_ɛrə]

7. *I will speak of your glory, O charm of the eyes,*
   Je dirai ta gloire, ô charme des yeux,
   [_ə dirɇ ta _lwar o _armə dɇ_ jø_]

8. *to the hair with which I am enthralled.*
   Des cheveux dont je suis épris.
   [dɇ _əvø dõ _ə sɥi_ epri_]

9. *I am going to the setting sun,*
   Je m'en vais au soleil couchant,
   [_ə mã vɇ_ o _ɔlɛj ku_ã_]

10. *the flying bees sing;*
    Chantent les abeilles volages;
    [_ãtə lɇ_ abɛjə vɔla_ə_]

11. *we may exchange our souls,*
    Nous pouvons échanger nos âmes,
    [nu puvõ_ e_ã_e no_ ɑmə_]

12. *In a dream which was charmed by your image*
    Dans un sommeil que charmait ton image
    [dã_ œ̃ sɔmɛj _ə _armɇ tõ_ ima_ə]

WORKSHEET #15: French consonants

#1

guêpe	(wasp)
[_ɛpə]	
adoucir	(soften)
[adu_i_]	
épouse	(wife)
[epu_ə]	
ça	(it)
[_a]	
magique	(magic)
[ma_i_ə]	
cailloux	(pebbles)
[_aju_]	
signe	(sign)
[_i_ə]	
jamais	(never)
[_amɛ_]	
bouche	(mouth)
[bu_ə]	
lequel	(which)
[lə_ɛ_]	

#2

vague	(wave)
[va_ə]	
chair	(flesh)
[_ɛ_]	
atteigne	(reaches)
[atɛ_ə]	
sujet	(about)
[_y_ɛ_]	
câline	(cuddly)
[_alinə]	
glaçon	(ice)
[_la_õ_]	
l'église	(the church)
[le_li_ə]	
berceau	(cradle)
[bɛ___o]	
rivages	(shores)
[_iva_ə_]	
musique	(music)
[my_i_ə]	

#3

gage	(token)
[_a_ə]	
prodigue	(prodigal)
[p_ɔdi_ə]	
désir	(desire)
[de_i_]	
baigne	(bathe)
[bɛ_ə]	
l'objet	(the object)
[lɔb_ɛ_]	
accolade	(embrace)
[a_ɔladə]	
soupçon	(suspicion)
[_up_õ_]	
racines	(roots)
[_a_inə_]	
chaste	(pure, innocent)
[_a_tə]	
tunique	(tunic)
[tyni_ə]	

#4

presque	(almost)
[p_ɛ___ə]	
majesté	(majesty)
[ma_ɛ_te]	
règne	(reigns)
[_ɛ_ə]	
cristal	(crystal)
[___i_ta_]	
écloses	(hatched)
[e_lo_ə_]	
guide	(guide)
[_idə]	
berçait	(rocked)
[bɛ___ɛ_]	
agile	(agile)
[a_ilə]	
chassez	(hunt)
[_a_e_]	
cilice	(sackcloth)
[_ili_ə]	

WORKSHEET #15: French consonants

#9

bague	(ring)
[ba__ə]	
gênait	(bother)
[__ɛnɛ__]	
cercle	(circle)
[__ɛ___lə]	
fraîcheur	(freshness)
[f__ɛ__œ__]	
cascade	(cascade)
[__a___adə]	
reçu	(received)
[__ə__y]	
grise	(gray)
[___i__ə]	
quitter (*r* silent)	(leave)
[__ite]	
vignes	(vines)
[vi__ə__]	
joug	(yoke)
[__u__]	

#10

cierges	(church candles)
[__jɛ___ə__]	
écrit	(written)
[e___i__]	
dague	(dagger)
[da__ə]	
façons	(ways)
[fa__õ___]	
juste	(just)
[__y__tə]	
résonne	(resonates)
[__e__ɔnə]	
spécial	(special)
[__pe__ja__]	
quelle	(what, which)
[__ɛlə]	
lignage	(lineage)
[li__a__ə]	
couche	(layer)
[__u__ə]	

#11

l'orgue	(organ)
[lɔ___ə]	
génie	(genius)
[__eni]	
cygne	(swan)
[__i__ə]	
roseaux	(reeds)
[__o__o__]	
jade	(jade)
[__adə]	
français	(French)
[f__ɑ̃__ɛ__]	
calice	(chalice)
[__ali__ə]	
chez	(at)
[__e__]	
barque	(boat)
[ba___ə]	
accourt	(hurry up)
[a__u___]	

#12

l'éclat	(the glare)
[le__la__]	
chéris	(cherished)
[__e__i__]	
fragile	(fragile)
[f__a__ilə]	
guérir	(heal)
[__e__i__]	
résigne	(resigns)
[__e__i__ə]	
jaloux	(jealous)
[__alu__]	
cause	(cause)
[__o__ə]	
société	(society)
[__ɔ__jete]	
pâquerette	(daisy)
[pɑ__ə__ɛtə]	
conçu	(designed)
[__õ__y]	

UNIT 27:

Latin consonants *s, c, r,* and *g*

RULES FOR TRANSCRIPTION

Latin consonants *s, c, r,* and *g*

Spelling	IPA	Sample Words
c or *g* + *a, o, u*, consonant, or final	[k] [g] Velar Plosive (Stop)	glorificamus [glɔrifiˈkɑmus] tunc [tunk]
c + front vowel	[tʃ] Prepalatal Affricate	preces [ˈprɛtʃɛs] speciosa [spɛ-tʃi-ˈɔ-zɑ]
g + front vowel	[dʒ] Prepalatal Affricate	agens [ˈɑdʒɛnz]
Initial *r*	[r] Rolled r	rubet [ˈrubɛt] recordor [rɛˈkɔrdɔr]
All other *r*	[ɾ] Flipped r	propter [ˈprɔptɛr] terris [ˈtɛɾris]
Intervocalic *s*	[z] Dental Fricative	visita [ˈvizitɑ]
Voiced consonant + final *s*	[z]	potens [ˈpɔtɛnz]
All other *s*	[s] Dental Fricative	solus [ˈsɔlus] passionis [pɑs-si-ˈɔ-nis]

CLASSWORK #27: Latin consonants *s, c, r,* and *g*

Provide IPA:

1. accipite   (take)

2. peccatis   (sins)

3. laboriose   (laboriously)

4. sapiens   (wise)

5. reus   (defendant)

6. imago   (image)

7. cui   (to which)

8. gravitas   (seriousness)

9. incensum   (incense)

10. fregit   (he broke)

WORKSHEET #27: Latin consonants *s, c, r,* and *g*

Provide IPA:

#9

calicem	(cup)
navigo	(I sail)
benedictum	(blessed)
gladius	(sword)
sæculorum	(centuries)
archangelo	(archangel)
robur	(strength)
propositum	(design)
ditans	(enriching)

#11

quærens	(seeking)
gaudium	(joy)
restituo	(I restore)
custodiat	(he guards)
angeli	(angels)
progressus	(advance)
amica	(friend)
doloso	(deceitful)
sacrificium	(sacrifice)

#10

cælis	(heaven)
inclyti	(glorious)
peccatorum	(sins)
manibus	(hands)
revelante	(revealing)
degusto	(I taste)
ventosus	(windy)
genitum	(generated)
adulescens	(young man)

#12

invisibilium	(unseen)
dicere	(to say)
laganum	(cake)
aureus	(golden)
testamenti	(testament)
canticum	(song)
nutrimens	(nourishment)
repleamur	(we are filled)
evangelium	(news)

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