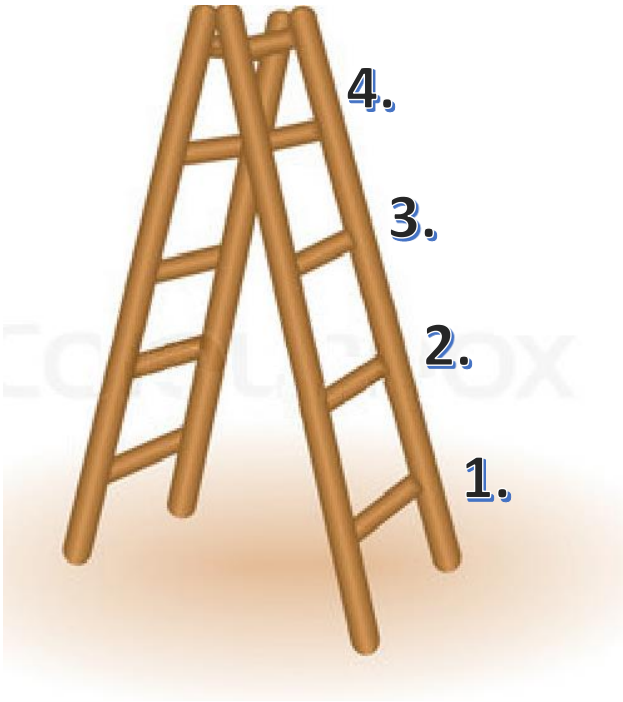


Vocal Quality according to producer and vocal coach [Jan Smith](#)

She describes this hierarchy of parameters involved in voice excellence, and recommends prioritizing the training in this way:



4th rung: **Technique** - got to be right for the context. Attacks, spits, curls, growl, pops, grinds, onsets and releases, pronunciation, unique delivery choices.

3rd rung: **Tone** – got to be right for the genre. Airy or not, dark, light, heavy, nasal, etc. Controlled by position of various parts of the vocal tract

2nd rung: **Dynamics** – got to be strong. Pressure behind airflow itself, not simply amount of air flow

1st rung: **PITCH** – got to be in tune. Vocal cords tightening/loosening, thickening/thinning using tiny muscles

As audience, we often judge voices from the top down, but they must be *built* from the bottom up.

Hard to be called a “good” singer if you have bad pitch.

Hard to be called a “strong” singer without dynamic control.

Hard to be called a “beautiful” singer without control of tone.

Hard to be called an “expressive” singer without control of technique.

Some of these can be fixed in the studio, and a good editor can make any voice sound like a good, strong, beautiful, and expressive voice.

But in order to do it live, you have to build from the bottom up.