

IPA Braille for Lyric Diction

A Mutually Accessible Phonetic System

by Cheri Montgomery

*IPA	Keystroke	Braille
FRONT VOWELS		
Closed [i]	i	⠠
Open [ɪ]	I	⠠⠠
Closed [e]	e	⠡
Open [ɛ]	E	⠡⠠
BACK VOWELS		
Closed [u]	u	⠢
Open [ʊ]	U	⠢⠠
Closed [o]	o	⠣
Open [ɔ]	O	⠣⠠
CENTRAL VOWELS		
Dark [ɑ]	A	⠠⠠⠠
Bright [a]	a	⠠
Central [ʌ]	V	⠠⠠
Central [æ]	ae	⠠⠠
English [ɜ]	R	⠠⠠
German [ɝ]	R	⠠⠠
MIXED VOWELS		
Closed [y]	y	⠣
Open [ʏ]	Y	⠣⠠
Closed [ø]	oe	⠠⠠
Open [œ]	OE	⠠⠠⠠
FRENCH NASAL VOWELS		
Central dark [ɑ̃]	-A	⠠⠠⠠⠠
Open front [ɛ̃]	-E	⠠⠠⠠
Closed back [ɔ̃]	-o	⠠⠠
Open mixed [œ̃]	-OE	⠠⠠⠠⠠

IPA	Keystroke	Braille
STRESS MARK, LONG MARK, SCHWA		
Stress mark [ˈ]	ˈ	⠠
Long mark [ː]	ː	⠠
Schwa [ə]	˘	⠠
Brackets []	[]	⠠⠠⠠
BILABIAL CONSONANTS		
Voiceless glide [ɱ]	W	⠠⠠
DENTAL CONSONANTS		
Voiceless fricative [θ]	th	⠠⠠
Voiced fricative [ð]	Th	⠠⠠⠠
Voiced flipped [ɾ]	r	⠠
Voiced rolled [r]	rr	⠠⠠
Voiced retroflex [ɻ]	R	⠠⠠
PREPALATAL CONSONANTS		
Voiceless fricative [ç]	S	⠠⠠
Voiced fricative [ʒ]	Z	⠠⠠
Voiceless affricate [tʃ]	tS	⠠⠠⠠
Voiced affricate [dʒ]	dZ	⠠⠠⠠
Voiced nasal [ɲ]	-j	⠠⠠
Voiced lateral [ɭ]	L	⠠⠠
Voiceless fricative [ç̥]	x	⠠
Voiced glide [ɥ]	y	⠠
VELAR CONSONANTS		
Voiced nasal [ŋ]	N	⠠⠠
Voiceless fricative [χ]	X	⠠⠠
GLOTTAL CONSONANTS		
Voiceless stop [ʔ]	?	⠠

*The articulatory formation needed for singing results in a reclassification of certain vowels for lyric diction.