



A JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR MUSIC THEORY

MTO 30.4 Examples: Barna and McLaughlin, Vocal Production, Mimesis, and Social Media in Bedroom Pop

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)

<https://mtosmt.org/issues/mto.24.30.4/mto.24.30.4.barnamclaughlin.html>

Example 1. G-Eazy featuring Halsey, "Him and I," 0:00–0:11

Cross my hea - rt hope to di - e To my lov - er I'd nev - er li - e said be tru
kɪəs mə 'hæ.ɹt hoʊp tʰ 'dɪ.ɪ tʰu maɪ 'læ.vɪ ʔaɪr 'nɛ.vɪ laɪ sɛ bi tru

e I swear I'll tr - y in the end it's him and I
— hə sweɪ ɹəl 'tʃɹæ.ɪ ɪn ʔɪ ɛndʰ ɪts hɪm ɪn ɪ

Example 2. Cynthia Erivo, belting during "I'm Here" (from *The Color Purple*); Christina Aguilera, belting during the National Anthem (NBA Finals 2010)



Example 3. Joni Mitchell using head voice in “A Case of You”; Kathleen Battle using head voice in “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”



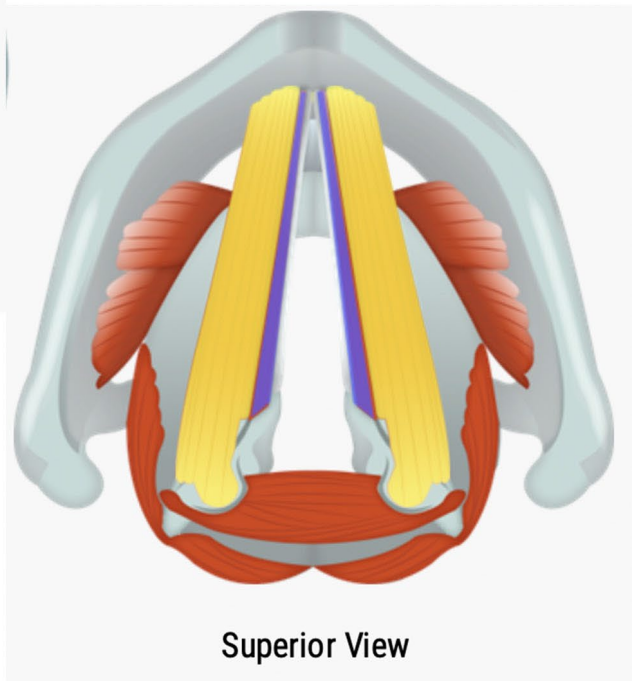
Example 4. Thyroarytenoid and vocalis muscles (Reproduced from Skoretz, “Anatomy of Swallowing,” 2.9.2 “Laryngeal Muscles,” Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License)

Thyroarytenoid CN X

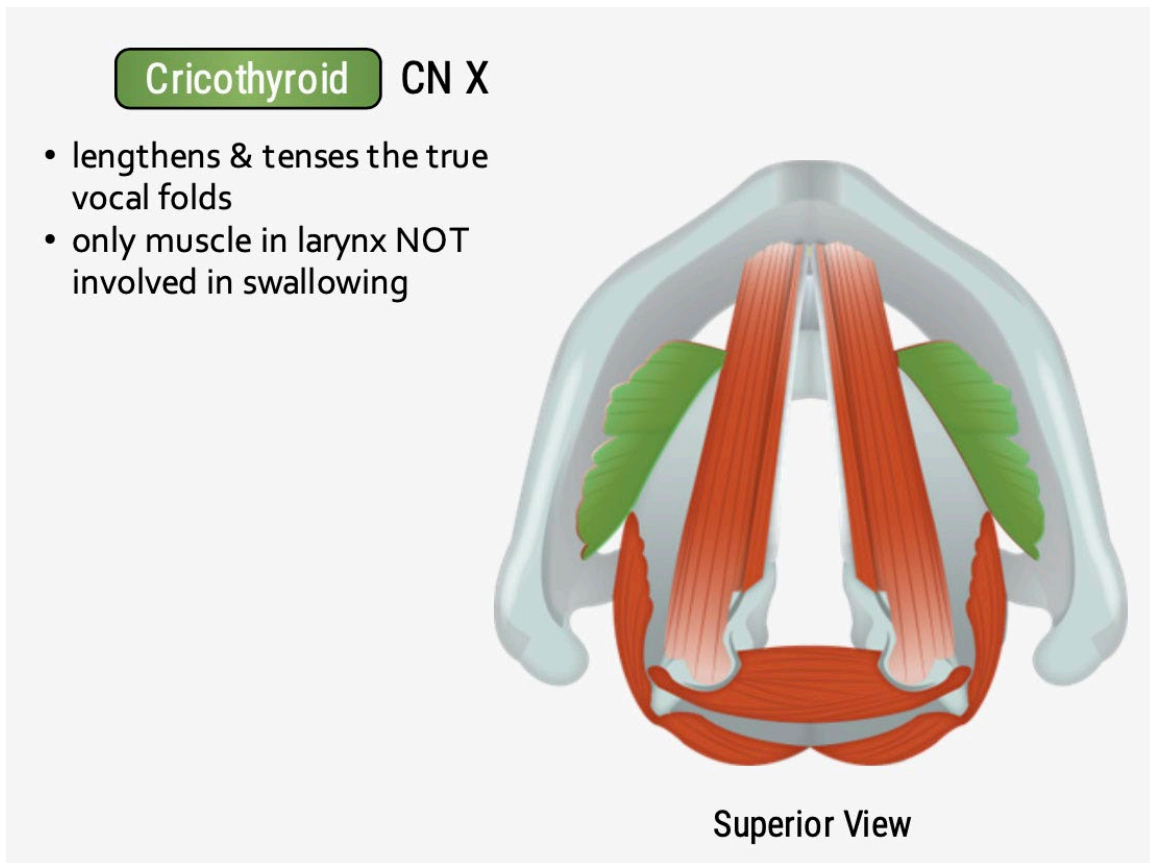
- shortens & thickens the true vocal folds
- thyroepiglottic portion narrows the laryngeal inlet

Vocalis CN X

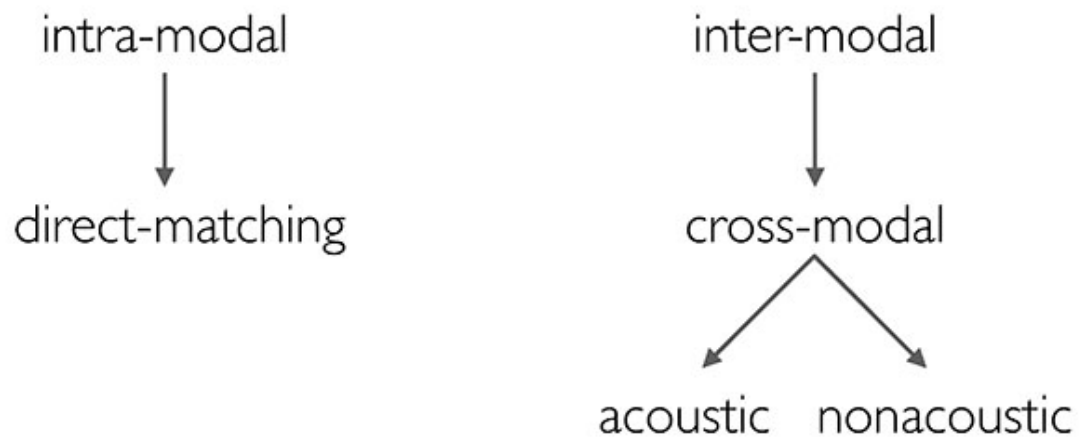
- varies the tension of the vocal folds



Example 5. Cricothyroid muscles (Reproduced from Skoretz, "Anatomy of Swallowing," 2.9.2 "Laryngeal Muscles," Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License)



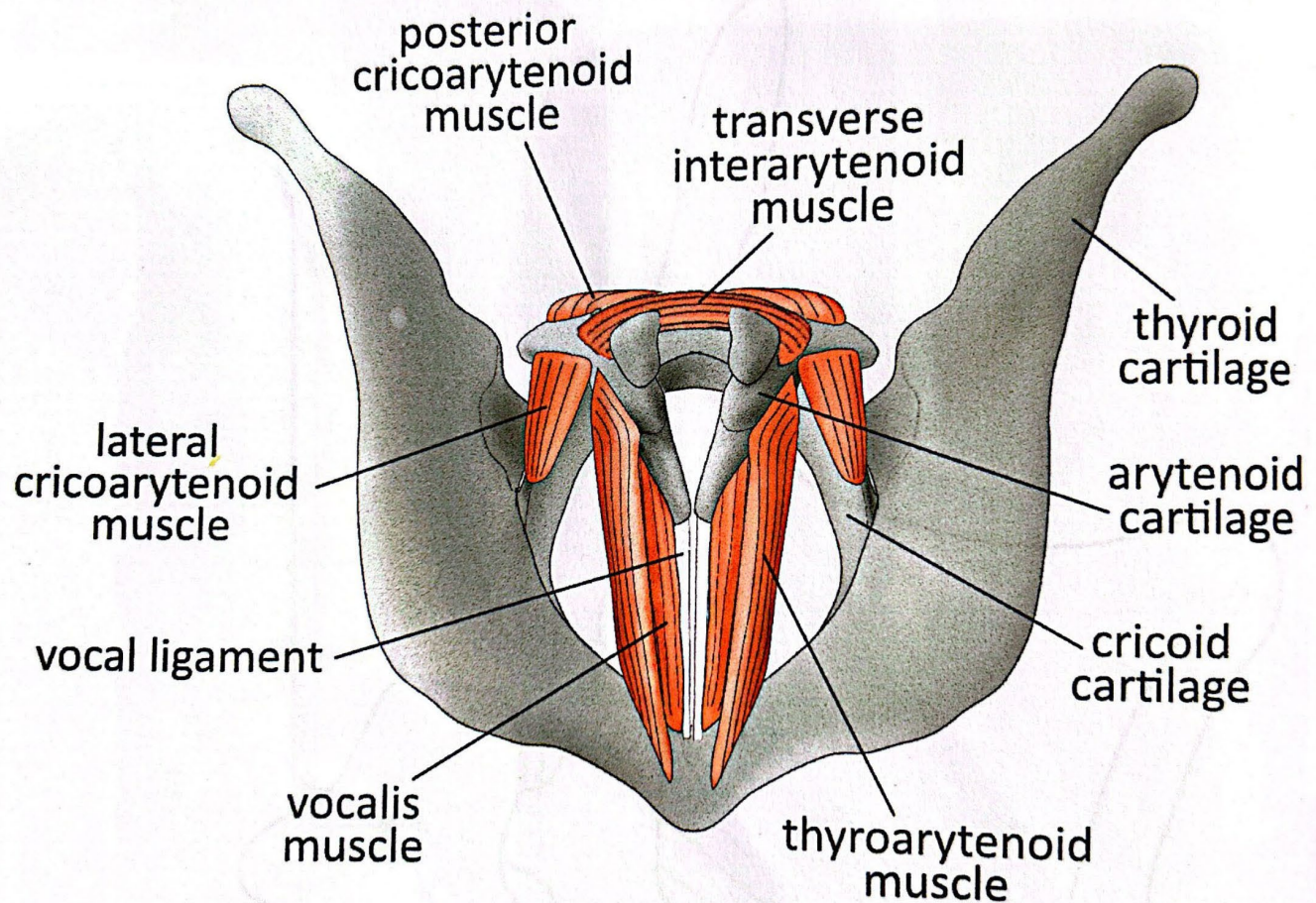
Example 6. Forms of MMI (after Cox 2011, 2016)



Example 7. Lyrics to the chorus of "Everything I Wanted"

*And you say
*"As long as I'm here, ** no one can hurt you
**Don't wanna lie here, ** but you can learn to
**If I could change the way that you see yourself
*You wouldn't wonder why you hear
*'They don't deserve you'"

Example 8. The Phonatory Gap present in vocal anatomy (Reproduced with permission from Harrison and Watson 2020, 64)



The vocal folds from above

Example 9. Bedroom pop mixed voice mouth shapes as used by Billie Eilish (singing "idontwannabeyouanymore" and Olivia Rodrigo (singing "drivers license")



Example 10. Lyrics to the chorus of "hot mess"

I can't **fight** it, you **try** drivin' (fāīr, tʃɹāī)
Exit to the end in **sight**, dear ('ek sīr, sāīr)
Make it ugly, put on a **show** (mēīk, ʃōū)
Hack it that I hate you **so** that I can let go (sōū)

Example 11. The word “sight,” performed by dodie (2:23 from “hot mess - original song | bedroom demo”)



Example 12. External vocal production by dodie on “When” 2016 (12a) and 2023 (12b)



Example 13. Form diagram, "reckless driving"

Lizzy: Chest Voice	Lizzy: Add BP Mix	Lizzy: BP Mix	Ben: No BP mix			Lizzy: Chest	Lizzy: Chest/ Belt
Verse I	Prechorus	Chorus	Verse 2	Prechorus	Chorus	Bridge	Bridge+Chorus Blend
0:00	0:19	0:43	1:03	1:21	1:45	2:09	2:30
Intimate Zone		Personal Zone	Intimate Zone		Personal Zone	Intimate Zone	Personal Zone