CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION vi

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK vi

SONG SHEETS

"It's You" lead sheet vii

"It's You" lyric sheet ix

"Dance with Me" lead sheet xi

"Dance with Me" lyric sheet xiii

SECTION 1
TIMING: PHRASE IT LIKE YOU SAY IT

CHAPTER 1. RUBATO PHRASING

Researching the Lyric – "It's You" 2

Taking the Interpretation Deeper 4

Rubato Phrasing in a Duo Setting 4

Rubato Phrasing in a Straight Ballad Style 6

Spontaneity Practice 8

CHAPTER 2. RUBATO/RHYTHMIC PHRASING COMBO

Rhythmic Phrasing – Slow Swing 9

Applying Interpretation to Rhythmic Phrasing – Slow Swing 10

Alternating Rubato and Rhythmic Phrasing – Slow Swing 12

Rhythmic Phrasing – Straight-Eighth Bossa Nova 13

Applying Interpretation to Rhythmic Phrasing – Bossa Nova 14

Alternating Rubato and Rhythmic Phrasing – Bossa Nova 17

Spontaneity Practice 17

CHAPTER 3. RHYTHMIC PHRASING – MEDIUM AND UP-TEMPO

Researching the Lyric – "Dance with Me" 18

Restrictive Rhythm Practice – Medium Swing 20

Medium Tempo Rhythmic Phrasing with Interpretation – Swing 22

Up-Tempo Restrictive Rhythm Practice – Swing 24

Applying Lyric Interpretation – Fast Swing 27

Up-Tempo Rhythm Practice – Samba 33

Applying Lyric Interpretation – Samba 33

Spontaneity Practice 34

Bonus Exercise – Fast Swing 34

CHAPTER 4. EXPLORING OTHER GROOVES

Cha-cha 35
Mambo 41
Back-Beat Swung-16th Styles (R&B, funk, hip-hop, et al.) 48
Reggae 53
7/4 (4+3) 59
5/4 (3+2) 65
Double-Time-Feel Swing 70

SECTION 2
TONE: COLOR IT LIKE YOU SAY IT

CHAPTER 5. VOCAL TECHNIQUE BASICS

Breath Management 78
The Soft Palate 79
Getting a Handle on Register Shifts 80
Vibrato 87
Choosing a Key with the Lyric in Mind 90

CHAPTER 6. FURTHER TONAL EXPLORATION

Dynamic Variety 91
Resonance 92
Larynx Position 93
Analysis and Imitation to Build Tonal Variety 94

SECTION 3
MELODIC ALTERATIONS: SHAPE IT LIKE YOU SAY IT

CHAPTER 7. SMALL GESTURES

Emphasizing with Higher Notes 96
Emphasizing with Lower Preparatory Notes 97
Adding Tonal Intention 98

CHAPTER 8. LARGE GESTURES

Taking Goal Words Even Higher 100
Finessing the Change 102
One Syllable, Many Notes (The Sarah Vaughan Effect) 103
Contouring with Opposites 108
Creating Tension with Color Tones 109
Matching Range with Emotion 112
Bringing in the Blues 114
Spontaneity Practice 114

SECTION 4
STYLE: EXPRESS IT LIKE YOU SAY IT

CHAPTER 9. EXPLORING STYLISTIC GESTURES

Scoops 116
Slides 117
Glottal Attacks 118
Descending Double Step 118
Double Pulse 119
Breath Release 120
Diction 121

CHAPTER 10. EXPLORING STYLE THROUGH DEEP TRANSCRIPTION AND IMITATION

Choosing a Recording for Transcription 123
Transcribing Lyric Delivery 123
Applying Transcription to Performance 124

SECTION 5
ADDITIONAL FACTORS

CHAPTER 11. THE VISUAL EFFECT

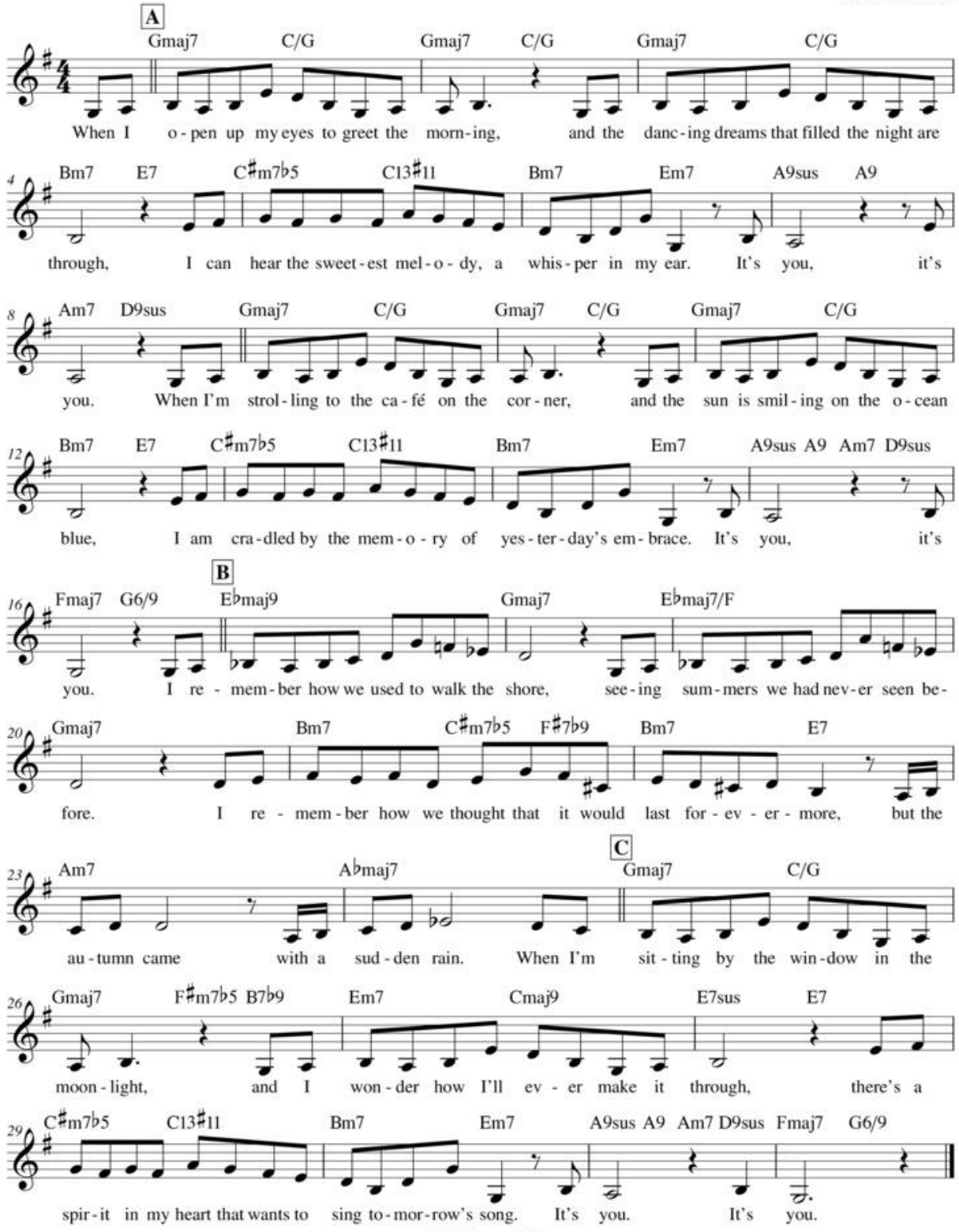
Eye Contact 126
Facial Expression and Involvement 126
Body Language 127
Microphone Technique 128

CHAPTER 12. CHOOSING REPERTOIRE 129

Color Tone Possibilities 130
Supplemental Listening 132
Recommended Resources 134
Acknowledgments 135
About the Author 135

IT'S YOU

Music and Lyrics by
Rosana Eckert



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Other restrictive rhythm practice possibilities include:

- Syncopation (no downbeat emphasis)
- Quarter notes (no syncopation)
- Hemiola (repeated dotted-quarter notes)

We used the above restrictions on pages 25 and 26. You can read along with those restrictive rhythm exercises while using the R&B backing tracks.

Step 4: Interpretation "Batting Practice"

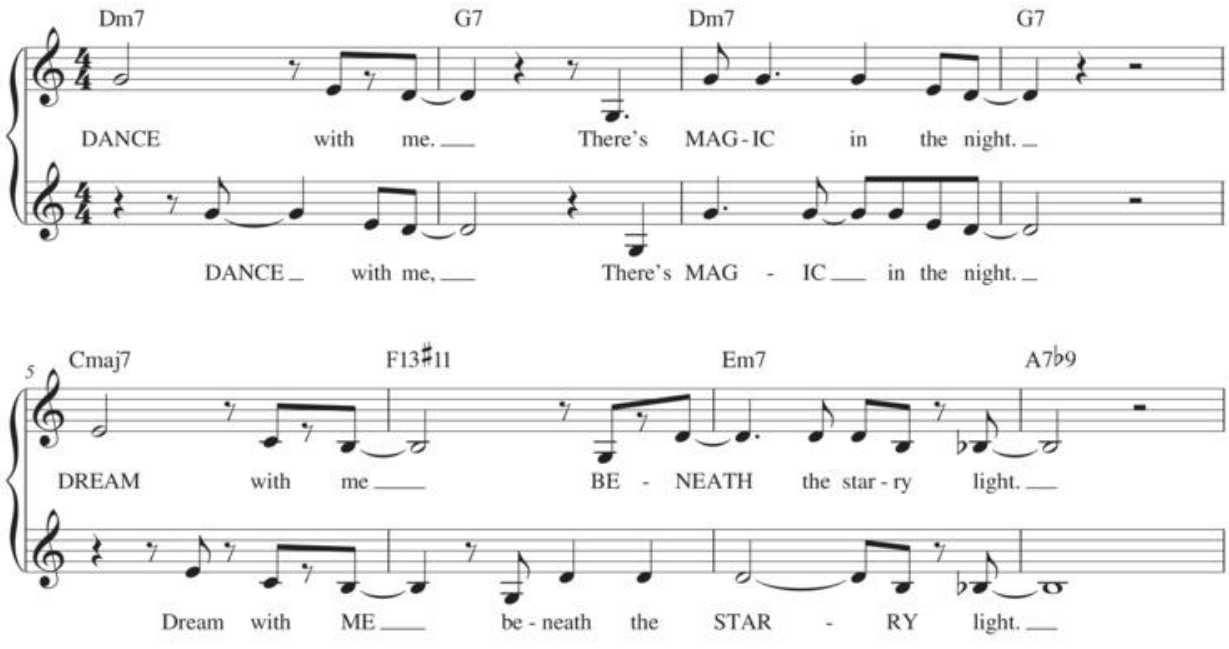
Set your metronome to 90 bpm – or 180 if you prefer to divide the beat. It's time for our line-by-line repetitive goal-word practice. Using the options below or your own, repeat each line a number of times. Explore the various ways you can bring out the goal words while incorporating the rhythmic concepts we just practiced.

DANCE with me. There's MAGIC in the night.
DREAM with me BENEATH the starry light.
I sent my WISH to the SKY.
My heart is READY to FLY.

Oh, won't you SWAY with me, a TANGO just for two?
Could it BE I'll FALL in love with you?
And we would be SUCH a SIGHT.
Just DANCE with me TONIGHT.

To get you started, here are two different interpretations of the first 16 bars, using the goal-word emphasis above.

"Dance with Me" – R&B, line-by-line practice with drums



Using the backing track, speak – then sing – through the song in 5/4 time. Feel the 3+2 subdivision as you sing. Take note of any pitfalls in the lyric where you might need to work out the phrasing.

"Dance with Me" – 5/4 time, backing track (soprano key)
TRACK 90

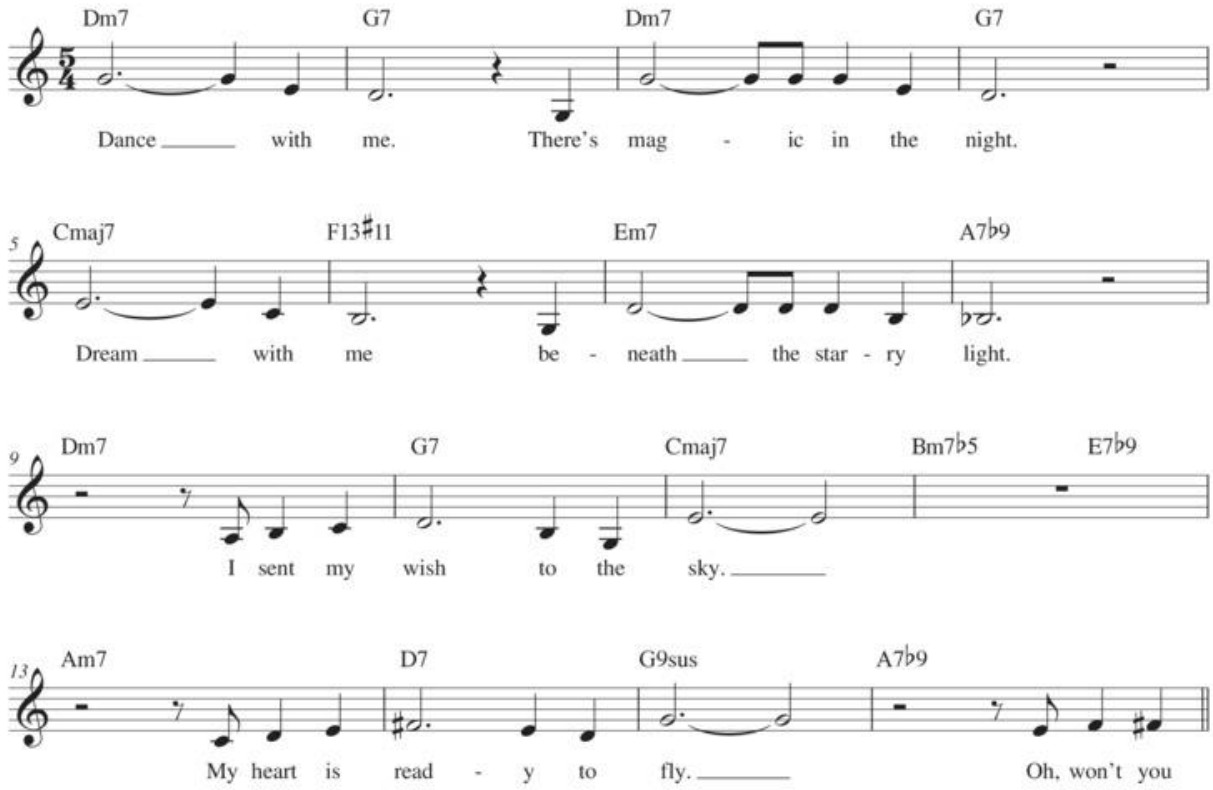
"Dance with Me" – 5/4 time, backing track (tenor/baritone key)
TRACK 91

Step 3: Rhythmic Restrictions

Using the backing track in 5/4, speak – then sing – through the following rhythmic restriction exercises. Remember that we are not necessarily concentrating on goal words or interpretation during these exercises. We are simply exploring our rhythmic options.

First, let's focus on sustained downbeats. We are aiming to land on the downbeat, sustain for the majority of the measure, and sing quick pickups into the next bar. Here is an example of the first 16 measures of the song with this rhythmic restriction.

"Dance with Me" – 5/4 time, sustained downbeats (alto key)
TRACK 92



Great singing can inspire us, surprise us, make us laugh, or make us cry. It can draw the listener in, creating a shared experience of stories and emotions, communicating the singer's unique point of view. ***Singing with Expression*** presents a step-by-step guide to help vocalists of any style or genre find their voice and connect with their audience.

Singing with Expression has five sections: Timing, Tone, Melodic Alteration, Style, and Other Factors, each with several chapters detailing various concepts and exercises. You'll find over 145 downloadable listening tracks with the author's demonstrations, as well as backing tracks in three different keys.

Spontaneity exercises are featured in several chapters, aimed at helping singers sharpen their real-time-reaction reflexes in a performance situation. Included in the back of the book is a listening list of songs that specifically demonstrate a groove or approach discussed in the book.

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Each copy of ***Singing with Expression*** comes with a unique code inside, allowing the purchaser to download or stream the accompanying audio tracks online. The tracks utilize ***PLAYBACK+***, a multi-functional audio player making it possible to slow down audio without changing pitch, set loop points, change keys, and pan left or right – available exclusively from Hal Leonard.

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Rosana Eckert is an internationally recognized jazz vocalist, composer, arranger, and educator. She teaches jazz voice, vocal pedagogy, and songwriting at the University of North Texas where she has helped build the vocal jazz program since 1999. She has performed with a long list of jazz luminaries, including Bobby McFerrin, Kenny Wheeler, George Duke, Christian McBride, Jon Faddis, New York Voices, and Lyle Mays. Her many published vocal ensemble arrangements and original songs have been performed worldwide, and she is in demand as a clinician, festival adjudicator, guest conductor, and vocal coach, teaching and performing regularly throughout the U.S. and abroad.

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