

**VOICE BUILDING AND TONE  
PLACING: SHOWING A NEW  
METHOD OF RELIEVING INJURED  
VOCAL CORDS BY TONE  
EXERCISES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649730230

Voice Building and Tone Placing: Showing a New Method of Relieving Injured Vocal Cords by  
Tone Exercises by H. Holbrook Curtis

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**H. HOLBROOK CURTIS**

**VOICE BUILDING AND TONE  
PLACING: SHOWING A NEW  
METHOD OF RELIEVING INJURED  
VOCAL CORDS BY  
TONE EXERCISES**



# VOICE BUILDING AND TONE PLACING

*SHOWING A NEW METHOD OF  
RELIEVING INJURED VOCAL CORDS  
BY TONE EXERCISES*

LANE MEDICAL LIBRARY

BY

H. HOLBROOK CURTIS, Ph. B., M. D.

FELLOW OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE; MEMBER OF THE COUNTY  
MEDICAL SOCIETY; MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION;  
FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN LARYNGOLOGICAL, RHINOLOGICAL,  
AND OTOLOGICAL SOCIETY;  
MEMBRE CORRESPONDANT DE LA SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE D'OTOLOGIE DE LARYNGOLOGIE  
ET DE RHINOLOGIE; MEMBER OF THE BRITISH LARYNGOLOGICAL,  
RHINOLOGICAL, AND OTOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, ETC.



NEW YORK  
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY

1896

27

YSAJRLI JMAJ

COPYRIGHT, 1896,  
By D. APPLETON AND COMPANY.

F306  
C97  
1896

TO MY FRIEND  
JEAN DE RESZKE  
THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS DEDICATED  
IN TOKEN OF  
THE AFFECTION AND ESTEEM  
OF THE AUTHOR.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100



## P R E F A C E .

---

THE tangled skein of theories which one must unravel in order to arrive at any simple conclusion in regard to the singing voice, makes our endeavour in the present volume an arduous one. We have tried to cling as closely as possible to facts, and make our subject scientifically satisfactory by the introduction of such of the elementary laws of sound and music, the thorough comprehension of which will enable the student to understand the conclusions deduced in our argument as to the proper production of tone. The chapters on anatomy and respiration are intended to be of value to the physician as well as to the student of singing, and for this reason also, the subject of the vibration of the vocal cords has been entered into in a way not treated of in any other work. The author has for a long time been convinced of the many fallacies which have obtained in the theories as to the so-called "registers" of the human voice,

and the absurdities of the deductions as to the manner of vibration of the vocal cords, made from photographs taken during tone production. The writer's theory, that the overtones introduced by the proper method of placing tones in the facial resonators induce a new plan of vibration of the vocal cords, has been verified by the recent investigation with the stroboscope by Professor Oertel, of Munich. We have introduced several of his experiments to explain the true plan of vibration of the cords as seen in the stroboscope, and have tried to elucidate our theory as to the removal of singers' "nodules" by tone exercises, in a scientific way. We would have been unable to do this, except upon theory, had it not been for his experiments. The manner of vibration and the formation of nodes and segments in the cords have been most carefully studied by Oertel as well as by Koschlakoff, Simanowski, and Imbert, but none of these investigators is evidently aware of the practical application of their discoveries. For several years many of our most renowned singers have been convinced of the efficacy of our method of tone exercises in overcoming serious affections of the vocal cords, and we trust that a perusal of this work will amply repay every laryngologist who will take the time and trouble to verify our assertions. We have included some of

the simplest exercises for the restitution of cords injured by improper vocal method, which may be employed by the teacher as well as the physician. The general scheme of the building of the voice, on the lines of our theory of tone placing, is appended for the benefit of teachers and students, in the hope that some one may receive aid from a method which, if not elaborate, is certainly beneficial in furnishing a fundamental principle of correct tone placing to the serious student. This book is the result of a vast experience with singers. The ideas have been put together in a concise and simple way, without any attempt at elaboration or style. If it will give assistance to any student or teacher groping amid the dark and dangerous traditions of voice culture, the author will feel that his modest efforts have been crowned with success. To Dr. Frank Donaldson I am indebted for valuable assistance in compilation, and to Madame Melba for her generous aid in the chapter on voice building. To the members of the Metropolitan and German Opera Companies, who have honoured me with their confidence, and given me great assistance in my search for the truth, I am profoundly grateful.

H. HOLBROOK CURTIS.

118 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK,  
*January 1, 1896.*