

**THE PHYSIOLOGY
OF THE
HUMAN VOICE**

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The physiology of the human voice by F. Romer

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F. ROMER

**THE PHYSIOLOGY
OF THE
HUMAN VOICE**

THE
PHYSIOLOGY
OF
THE HUMAN VOICE;

BEING
A TREATISE ON THE NATURAL POWERS OF THE VOCAL ORGAN,
POINTING OUT
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SPEAKING AND SINGING
QUALITY OF TONE, AND GIVING LAWS FOR THE
PROPER PRODUCTION OF THE MUSICAL
VOICE, FROM ITS LOWEST TO
ITS HIGHEST PITCH.

BY F. ROMER.



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PREFACE.

IN bringing before the public the following exposition of certain discoveries I have made respecting the manner and means by which nature produces the different tones in the human voice, it has been my endeavour to simplify and condense the work as far as the subject would in any way permit; nevertheless, I have no doubt that, to the general reader, it will at first appear complicated; since, in treating physiologically of the human voice, a writer is forced to use the technicalities of three distinct sciences, namely, Anatomy, Acoustics, and Music. To explain these, I have annexed a glossary of the different technical terms that occur in the course of my work; and the explanations contained in that glossary I have endeavoured to give in as few words as their various meanings would possibly allow.

I must also caution even the experienced singer against forming conclusions, respecting the theories submitted in this treatise, before giving to the voice that careful and minute

investigation regarding its quality of tone which it necessarily requires. For what I have advanced, has been tested by many years' constant and practical study of the vocal organ, and may be proved by every person, after devoting to the subject that attention and consideration which it demands.

The first chapter, in the following paper, being in opposition to the received notion, that the glottis is the sole point producing the vibrations of the human voice, has been inserted in the medical journal, the "Lancet," for December 28, 1844; for I thought it a right course to lay that part before the medical profession previous to publishing the entire work.

The great change that must take place in the system of vocal tuition, if it can be proved that the larynx and glottis are not the points which produce the musical tones of the voice, will be perfectly obvious to those who have physiologically studied the subject.

11, *Harrington Street,*
Hampstead Road,

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CHAP. I.

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THE various theories and the difference of opinion, existing both in England and on the Continent, regarding the means by which nature produces the different qualities of tone in the human voice, forced me (in the first instance) to study very minutely, for my own satisfaction and guidance, as a professor of music, the manner in which different pupils of opposite temperaments produced the various sounds which are within the powers and compass of the vocal organ.

Physicians generally have considered the tones of the voice to be caused by the vibra-