My Most Unforgettable Moment

Singing in front of lots of people could be intimidating, even for me, one of the top ten singers in my high school. Some weeks before the coming-of-age ceremony, I was assigned to perform a song. The biggest challenge was that one note inside reached the pitch of A4, which is a recognized high in the male vocal range. Fortunately, I did well. What’s more, the unforgettable moment taught me the importance of preparation, mastering the basics, and cultivating a calm and objective mindset.

Firstly, intense preparation was crucial, as demonstrated vividly during the weeks of rehearsals. It was through practicing during lunch breaks, over and over again, hiding in my dorm room, that I realized the key to reaching the A4 note was proper breath support. Considering that there was a sustained note in the E4 pitch before the A4 note, maintaining vocal cord closure was necessary to ensure a solid sound. Additionally, I learned from practical experience that using head-dominant mix in the first chorus accentuated the sense of layer of the whole song. Without meticulous preparation and thoughtful consideration, I would find it difficult to perform this song to the level that meets my expectations.

In the blink of an eye, the moment of the performance arrived. The second chorus was coming to an end, and the A4 was approaching. “Take a deep breath before the start of this melodic phrase, focus on engaging the diaphragm more in the first half to stabilize my breath, and reduce trills to ensure the stability of my voice...” Yes, I did them! With a subtle activation of the muscles in my throat and a noticeable elongation of my vocal cord, I successfully finished the A4 note! However, I didn't have time to savor this wonderful moment. I forcefully suppressed the sense of accomplishment and quickly entered the second verse.

Secondly, mastering the fundamentals was another essential lesson for me. Towards the end of the performance, there was a line that required me to use falsetto throughout. Perhaps because I didn't fully warm up my voice that day, I encountered some obstruction when attempting the first note. So, I immediately transitioned from falsetto to head voice by increasing vocal cord closure. Although this might sacrifice some of the gentleness produced by the natural breath leakage in falsetto, it added power to that section. Most importantly, I managed to complete the entire song smoothly. If I hadn't practiced the technique of using head voice as part of my foundation, that line could have turned into a disaster.

Lastly, after this somewhat successful moment, I truly experienced the spotlight effect. After my performance, the applause and cheers from the audience quickly filled me with an overwhelming sense of joy. However, a day or two after the ceremony ended, when I still proudly mentioned this experience to my friends, their attitudes had shifted from excitement to casualness over time. The contrast made me realize my naivety. Completing a class task satisfactorily was an honorable achievement, but as a high school senior facing the approaching college entrance exam, it was merely temporary entertainment from the monotonous study routine. I refocused my attention and practiced the ability to view things from an objective and rational standpoint.

My moment of shining enlightened me on the significance of being well-prepared, establishing strong fundamental bases, and maintaining an objective perspective. Since then, I have consistently held these principles close to my heart, my studies and everyday routines. It is possible that the significance of that moment extends beyond the mere success of that performance; rather, it stays in the valuable lesson it taught me.