

## HOW VOICE WORKS

### ***Voice requires 4 elements:***

- 1) A want, or a need to express yourself;
- 2) Air (breath) inside the body, providing air pressure beneath the vocal folds within the voice box (larynx);
- 3) Vocal folds parallel to each other, touching, just enough energy in them to require the air below to push them apart. **Vocal pitch\*** is decided here.
- 4) Different spaces and substances of the body to provide resonance. **Resonant pitch\*\*** is decided here. It is the combination of vocal pitch and resonant pitch that make up the sound of the voice

A HEALTHY VOICE is a voice created by air flowing – not pushed – between the vocal folds. The flow of air needs to be in the form of a consistent supply of air pressure in the lungs. The consistency of supply is enabled by the powerful muscles between the ribs, and by deep core muscles in the abdomen, working with the diaphragm.

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\* Vocal pitch means how high, or low (especially in singing, but also in the tune, or intonation of your voice). Think of how your voice gets higher when you are excited, or lower if you are unhappy.

\*\*Resonant pitch determines the colour, or quality of your voice. Think of a rich, dark, chocolaty voice, or a fine, bright, silvery voice. You can have them both, or any colour or quality in between.