

A Pop/Rock Song List

For voice teachers & vocal coaches

Hi Friends!

This tool will help you find songs for your **microphone-music singers**. It's a list that grows all the time, so if you're on my email list I'll let you know when I update it, and send you a link to download the updated version.

Although the ranges are indicated for many of the songs, please don't get locked into that. Change the key if it helps the singer master the song...bring the song to the singer. I've also listed similar artists, so you can broaden your search if you want to.

This list does not include musical theater, because MT is not "pop" per se. I also did not include anything extreme (like Metal or Stadium Rock) or any really difficult or rangy songs. Students & clients who *can* sing difficult songs probably won't look to you to give them ideas. They'll tell *you* what they want to sing!

Enjoy these ideas, and have fun!

Meredith

NOTE: Songs are indicated by their ranges. M=major, m=minor, p=perfect

Song	Artist	Style	Range	If the student likes;	Notes	Difficulty
Don't Know Why	Nora Jones	Singer/Songwriter	M9 Bb4-C5	Any jazz/pop. Or, artists Carole King, James Taylor, Allison Krauss, Sarah McLaughlin, Ellie Goulding, Esperanza Spalding, Joni Mitchell	Unnecessary low notes at the beginning of phrases. You can ignore it if you want. Sing a different note or don't sing them at all. ("don't know why" instead of "I don't know why") Nice, easy song that facilitates textural head register + mix.	1.5
Sunrise	Nora Jones	Singer/songwriter	M9 Bb4-C5	Any jazz/pop. Or, artists Carole King, James Taylor, Allison Krauss, Sarah McLaughlin, Ellie Goulding, Esperanza Spalding, Joni Mitchell	Gentle, easy-breezy song.	2
Mack the Knife	Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darin	Jazz Standard	m7 B3-A4	Medium-up swing story song	This is a standard that is repetitive and easy. It's really fun for introducing young students to a swing song. Often modulates up half steps at the singers preference.	1
The Way I Am	Ingrid Michaelson	Singer/Songwriter	M9 G3-A4	Pop ballad: Joshua Radin, Lenka, Colbie Caillat, KT Tunstall, Jason Mraz, KD Lange	Simple, short, easy. Easy to transpose.	2
Never Gonna Let You Down	Colbie Caillat	Singer/Songwriter	M9 G3-A4	Happy pop: Ingrid Michaelson, Pharrel Williams, Jason Mraz, Joe Jonas, Zendaya, Sabrina Carpenter	Happy, easy song. Good for young singers. The video is all about dogs.	2.5
No One	Alicia Keys	R&B Med Ballad	M9 B3-C#5	R&B Piano Singer/Songwriter: Rhianna, Stevie Wonder, Michael Bubl�, Billy Joel, Carol King, Lauren Hill	Solid quarter note track; good for people learning to feel how the melody fits with the groove. Long vowels+ bright vowels on high notes.	4

Count On Me	Bruno Mars	Happy Pop	P11	Happy pop: Jason Mraz, Beyoncé, Ne-Yo, Maroon 5, Justin Timberlake, Jessie J.	Nice combination of bouncy-pop narrative verse and long-vowel chorus.	3
Everything I Wanted	Billie Eilish	Singer/Songwriter	P12	Emo Singer/Songwriter: Ellie Goulding, Grace Potter, Paramore, Evanescence, Sabrina Carpenter, Adele	The song is good, the student's interpretation will have to be more "their own" in order to make this song worthwhile in the studio. Her key is really low. Making it higher and allowing for vocal breaks – or mixed voice – is a better option.	3
Not Over You	Gavin DeGraw	Piano Man, Med tempo	M9	Piano Man Medium Ballad: Billy Joel, Elton John, John Mayer, Shawn Mendez, John Legend, Carol King	High note is a quick quarter; student doesn't have time to be afraid of it.	3
Until You Come Back to Me	Stevie Wonder also Aretha Franklin	Medium classic R&B	M10 F3-A4 Also Bb3-D5	Classic R&B: Gladys Knight, Luther Vandross, Smokey Robinson, Natalie Cole, Earth, Wind & Fire	This is a really fun melody to sing. The bridge can get a little wonky; Stevie sings the real version, Aretha does Aretha. If that ONE high note in the bridge is too high, change it!	
I'm a Lady	Meghan Trainor	R&B Dance	m10	Diva Funk: Rihanna, Mary J. Blige, Beyoncé, En Vogue, Luther Vandross, Sia, Natasha Bedingfield	Woman power song. For a student who wants to dip their toe in rap/hip hop. Vocal slides and embellishments. Some riffs, but not too many and they're basically the same thing every time.	5
Genesis	Dua Lipa	Pop Ballad	P11	Diva Pop: Adele, Demi Lovato, Zendaya, Selena Gomez, Katy Perry, Lady Gaga	This singer is hugely popular. For your low female or tenor voices who are learning high blend. The chorus of this song is good for touching the blended notes without trying to dig into them. It has an Adele feel to it.	4

A Thousand Years	Christina Perri	Singer/Songwriter	P12 F3-C5	Piano Pop ballad: Paramore, Carole King, Taylor Swift, Bonnie Raitt, Sarah Bareilles, Mary Lambert	This was from a Twilight movie. The original key is really low. The range stated is the actual range, but you can reduce it by P4 by not singing one phrase up an octave, as written.	2
Cups	Anna Kendrick	Country Folk (from Pitch Perfect)	P8	Peppy country folk: Allison Kraus, KT Tungston, Vance Joy, Christina Perri, Meghan Trainor	Fun, easy, cute, very repetitive with predictable melody. This is a good song for people with limited ability. Especially if they liked the Pitch Perfect movies.	2
Rainbows	Kacey Musgraves	Country Folk	P12 G3-Eb5	Ballad: Miranda Lambert, Michelle Branch, Lady Antebellum, Sheryl Crow, Allison Kraus	Beautiful song with a lovely melody. Opportunity to use textures and register breaks. Use Kacey as model for that.	3
So Far Away	Carol King	Pop Ballad	m10 A3-C5	Retro Pop/R&B ballad: Carly Simon, James Taylor, John Legend, Beatles	Nice pop ballad with small range.	2
Stay with Me	Sam Smith	Pop Ballad	P8	Ballad: Michael Bublé, Shawn Mendez, Sam Cook, The Beatles, Luther Vandross, Etta James	Retro pop ballad. Really simple and repetitive with a small range. Good for a beginner.	1
At Last	Etta James	R&B Ballad	P10 A3-C5	Motown Ballad: Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston, Janis Joplin, Lady Gaga	Retro R&B ballad. A standard. Easy to negotiate, lots of style without a lot of riffs. Many singers can do this without having to negotiate into their mix.	3

The Rose	Bette Midler	Pop ballad	M6 C4-A5	Regulation Ballad: Barbra Streisand, Barry Manilow, Carly Simon	This is a great piece for beginners or for the pitch-challenged. Small range, slow tempo, simple & repetitive form. Simple, repetitive chord progression. Easy to transpose to the singer's sweet spot.	1
Carolina In My Mind	James Taylor	Singer/songwriter	M6 F-D	Easy-breezy: Neil Young, Joni Mitchell, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Nancy Griffith, Lucy Kaplanski	Nice transition song for someone who's just learning pop styles. Very short & low pickup notes (<i>and ain't it just...</i>) can be changed if out of the singer's range.	2
Already Gone	Eagles	Rockin' Country	M9 G3-A4	Eagles uptempo: It's the Eagles. Love 'em or hate 'em.	This song has a small range and a narrative verse. The chorus holds the same pitch four times for 5 beats on different vowels. Really good for getting the hang of vowel modification in mix.	2
Fever	Peggy Lee	Jazz Standard	M10 G3-B4	Medium swing story song	This is a fun song for an adult, and/or someone with a limited range. It has a lot of sexy attitude. The song form is only an octave, but it modulates twice. If you are accompanying (as opposed to using a pre-recorded track) you can omit the modulations and keep the range smaller.	2
You and The Mona Lisa	Shawn Colvin	Singer/songwriter	m7	Medium tempo: James Taylor, Dixie Chicks, Kasey Musgrave, Jason Mraz, Sheryl Crowe, Taylor Swift	Small range, no drama, very narrative. Good for your intelligent singer who wants to sing a good song but doesn't have a lot of chops yet.	2

Torn	Natalie Imbruglia	Singer/songwriter	P11 Gb3-B4	Pop voice lesson standard	This is a good song for voice lessons and karaoke bars. It's kind of emo, nobody knows what the lyrics mean, and the high notes sound high but aren't that high.	2.5
Passionate Kisses	Mary Chapin Carpenter	Easy Listenin' Rock	M10 F#3-A4	Easy rock: Lucinda Williams (wrote it), Emmy Lou Harris, James Taylor, Ed Sheeran, Lenny Kravitz	Fun song for grown-ups. Can be done in any number of styles. Three verses, three choruses, done. No pressure to embellish. Can be sung as written.	3
Sucker	Jonas Bros	Upbeat pop	M9 B4-C#6	Regulation pop: Michael Jackson, Katy Perry, One Direction, Britney Spears, Sabrina Carpenter	Small range, and two simple melodic ideas on top of a great groove. What's not to love? Oh yes, the video is PG as well...	2
Still Into You	Paramore	Edgy Rock	M7 C4-D5	Rock and Rock-ish: Kelly Clarkson, Bully, Train, Maroon 5, Evanescence	Small range. Good for women with "new" mixed voice they're getting used to. Good for singer feeling + expressing rhythmic subdivisions.	3
Unwritten	Natasha Bedingfield	Indy rock	P12 G3-C4	Indy rock: Rachel Platten, Bjork, Liz Phair, Soccer Mommy, Natalie Imbruglia	A positive, personal power song for your teens. If the person has a good sense of singing rhythms, it's an easy song. Good for practicing on microphone to try textures/volumes.	1.5
Better Place	Rachel Platten	Pop ballad	P12 G3-C5	Indy Pop Ballad: Colbie Caillat, Ingrid Michaelson, Jason Mraz, Sabrina Carpenter	Lovely, positive song that doesn't ask for any drama. Just easy singing. (That low note is optional. If it's too low, change it.)	2

Somewhere Only We Know	Lily Allen or Keane	Pop ballad	M10 G3-B5	Indy Pop Ballad: Colbie Caillat, Ingrid Michaelson, Sara Bareilles, Sabrina Carpenter	Sweet, pretty song for smaller or younger voices. Will let singer have easy approach if they tend to push.	2
Ride Like the Wind	Christopher Cross	Retro Pop	P8 Bb-Bb	Classic 80s pop ballad: Fleetwood Mac, Paul Young, Richard Marx	Easy song with limited range. Has some held notes for support and vowel mod work.	2
The Outside	Taylor Swift	Country Pop	M9 Bb4-C5	Classic Taylor: Dixie Chicks, Trisha Yearwood, Susie Boggus, Carly Rae Jepsen	Early teen angst. Easy melody with fun up-tempo track.	1.5
Takes My Breath Away	Berlin	Retro rock Ballad	8ve Bb-Bb	Rock Ballad Annie Lenox, Blondie, Kate Bush	This song has a very limited range and easy song form. It can satisfy the emo singer who doesn't have any high & loud notes in her range yet.	2
Oh, What A World	Kacey Musgraves	Country pop	8ve B-B	Dixie Chicks, Dolly Parton, Trisha Yearwood, Carly Rae Jepsen	Really easy song that is vaguely romantic, but could be for a kid. Most of the song lies between Eb and B	2
Time After Time	Cyndi Lauper	Pop ballad	M9 G3-A4	Annie Lenox, Madonna, Culture Club, Donna Summer	If they like movie soundtrack music they probably know this song.	2
Here Comes the Sun	The Beatles	The Beatles	M6 E4-C#5	It's the Beatles. Other faves are Hey Jude, And I Love Her, Here, There, and Everywhere, I Will, and Oh Darlin.	The Beatles songs can be rangy, but this one is not. The melody is VERY syncopated, which can be fun for a singer to be made aware of and get the hang of. Easy to transpose to find just the right key.	1.5

Make You Feel My Love	Adele	Pop ballad	M9 Ab3- Bb4	Sam Smith, Amy Winehouse, Lorde, Katy Perry, Whitney Houston	Written by Bob Dylan, a folk song form with a lovely melody that's not rangy. It's a one-syllable-per-note song, so can be used to help singer be aware of + work on phrasing.	2.5
I Won't Back Down	Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers	Medium Rock	M6 G3-E4	Steve Miller, Van Morrison, Jackson Browne, Don Henley, Warren Zevon	Really easy. Repetitive, simple melody. High note is held and not really high. Good for boys with changing voices, guitar players, pitch-challenged singers.	1.5
Just the Way You Are	Bruno Mars	Up-tempo R&B/pop ballad	P12 C4-F6	The Weekend, Rhianna, Beyoncé, Ariana Grande, Charlie Puth, Justin Bieber	This song needs the singer to feel and express the rhythm of the melody. Good practice for "be rhythmic while you are connecting the phrase." Can be transposed,, or done down an octave for your guys, or both!	4
I'm Yours	Jason Mraz	Reggae-pop	M9 E-F#	Sam Smith, Gavin DeGraw, James Morrison, John Mayer, Colbie Caillat	There's a section where he sings a melody line on "do-do-do" that goes pretty high. You can use that to help access head register, or if those pitches are out of bounds for now, try changing the melody on that part.	3
Put Your Records On	Corinne Bailey Rae	Medium tempo pop singer/songwriter	M13 F3- C#5	India.Arie, Joss Stone, Jill Scott, Macy Gray, Duffy	This song just makes people feel happy. It's NOT a belty song, but can be used for head mix or pure pop head tones. There's no getting around the low note, so if your singer has room on the top you may want to transpose up a bit.	3.5
Distance	Emily King	Medium happy singing/songwriter	m9 B3-C5	Sara Bareilles, Corinne Bailey Rae, Joni Mitchell, Colbie Caillat	Simple melody with an odd song form. Good for your higher-voiced singers who like good lyrics and something a little quirky and fun.	3

Bluebird	Sara Bareilles	Pop ballad in 3	M13 G3-E5	Nora Jones, Harry Styles, Sheryl Crowe, Ingrid Michaelson, Birdy, Regina Spektor	This song is in 3. An intelligent break-up song with a lovely melody. Not heavy or belty, this is a great song for a head-dominant mixer. The lower pitches can be approached in a light & forward way.	4
Beautiful	Christina Aguilera Or Post Modern Jukebox	Medium pop ballad	P8 Bb3-Bb4	Kelly Clarkson, Maria Carey, Jesse J., Gwen Stephani, Jojo, Pink, Demi Lovato	The message is great for teens (though the video is a little spicy) and both the range and melody are really do-able. Good opportunity to show the difference between the melody and the embellishments a singer takes with a melody. Really easy to play if you're working on your chordal accompaniments.	3
Love Song	Sara Bareilles	Singer/songwriter upbeat	M13 F3-D5	Nora Jones, Harry Styles, Sheryl Crowe, Ingrid Michaelson, Birdy, Regina Spektor	Accompaniment is a solid 4 feel while the melody is syncopated. Really fun to sing. Accompaniment rhythm is important, so it should be accompanied by a good player or by backing tracks.	4
The Book of Love	Magnetic Fields	Singer/songwriter medium ballad	P5 Ab-Eb	Leonard Cohen, Marc Cohn, Mark Knopfler, Tom Waits, Lou Reed, Neil Young	This song proves you can write a good song with five notes. PLEASE note that there are also recordings of this song by Peter Gabriel (which is the definitive version) and Gavin James (the sweet version). There are THREE CHORDS in this song (I-IV-V) so you can do it in any key.	1.5

Other Ideas & References

Helpful links:

[Money Notes: How to Sing High, Loud, Healthy, & Forever](#) This is the book that introduces Neuro-Vocal Method for healthy singing of microphone-based styles. It's an easy read, and is guaranteed to change the way you think about singing...in a good way! Use the code **POP-ROCK** for 30% off the e-book.

[The blog post + video that goes with this list](#) is written with all kindza love for you and your teen students. Check it out. I promise it will help you.

[The No. 1 Secret to Hitting Your Money Notes](#) is my video that addresses the single biggest thing that holds singers back from hitting their high mixed (or blended) range. Their money notes!

[5 Ways to Start a Vowel in CCM/Popular](#) Also called "microphone styles." Many of us learn that there is only one correct (healthy, appropriate...whatever) way to start a vowel sound in singing. But in microphone-based genres that just ain't so. You can watch the video, or [read the blog version](#).

Student engagement:

Have your student write a list of 10 songs they like, or would like to sing. Keep that list with their stuff. When it's time for a new piece that will be your reference. Just because they wrote a song on their list does not mean you're going to work on it in lessons, but you might. And the list will help guide you in making appropriate song choices.

How to create a studio performance...

...without driving yourself crazy. Have a studio theme for everyone who will be taking part in your next recital. Everyone learns at least one song in the Theme Genre. This makes your task of finding the perfect fit a lot more relaxed. It also gives you an opportunity to expose your students to different types of music.

- Jazz
- Motown
- Country
- A decade (e.g., songs from the 80's)
- Singer/Songwriter
- Band songs
- Diva Songs
- Songs by a prolific band or songwriter (e.g. Eagles songs)

A good time investment:

Start a file where you can cross reference songs. Mine is still a 3-ring binder with tabs. My tabs are:

- Small Range
- Easy Melody
- Style
- Blending
- Bad-Ass

I have lists of songs under each of those. And I also subdivide a bit. So, under “Easy Melody” I have a page for adults and a page for teens. I might write the same song under Blending and Style, if the song does both those things. Under “Bad Ass” I have a page for R&B/riff songs, one for diva songs with high mix, and one for emo band songs. (If you’re wondering where I would put Kelly Clarkson, who would fit under all those categories, it’s diva. Duh.)

You do NOT need to give yourself another project to accomplish with this reference binder. It can be an ongoing thing. When you work on a song with a student, and you get to know the song, just jot it down on one of your lists.