

# FRENCH VOWEL CHART

## By, Dr. September Payne

The art of *Bell Canto*, used so often in Jean-Pierre Rampal's teaching is, on the inside, the art of *Inward Playing*. Coupled with the position of the tongue/pharynx, sculpting intervals with French vowels allow for flexible facial structure (lips, chin, teeth, tongue) or "souple" as Marcel Moysé admonished.

Certain vowels allow forward and/or downward facial/tongue movement needed for a natural, flexible approach, versus pulling backward and up, which produces a tight, smiling embouchure with compromised sound and intonation.

### ***Pronunciation***

*English*      *French*

A	Ah
E	Eh
I	EE
O	OHG
U	UE (Tue)

### ***Tessitura***

#### **Lower Octave B-G1**

UE and EH

#### **Middle Octave G#1-D2**

UGH and OOH or OOO

#### **High Middle to High D1-D2**

OOO or AH

#### **High Octave E3+**

AH and EE

#### **For Special High Notes (Very Sharp or Flat)**

High A3-Bb3 (AH)

Experiment with syllable choices, as they may vary slightly for each person. Choice can depend on present embouchure and innate lip structure. Additionally, vowel choice may change with certain interval or note combinations. Practice slow, beautiful legato melodies with leaps such as found in *Reichert's 7 Daily Exercises* or slurred arpeggio patterns for "lip/syllable memory".

# French Vowel Register Chart

The chart consists of three musical staves, each with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are half notes.

- Staff 1:** UE (G4), EH (F#4), OGH (E4), OOO (D4), AH (C4), AH (C4), EE (E4).
- Staff 2:** UE (G4), EH (F#4), OGH (E4), OOO (D4).
- Staff 3:** AH (C4), AH (C4), EEE (E4), AH (C4), EEE (E4), AH (C4).

Additional diacritics in Staff 3 include a circumflex over the first 'A' in 'EEE', a circumflex over the 'E' in 'EEE', a circumflex over the 'A' in 'AH', and a sharp sign over the 'E' in 'EEE'.