

The Roller Song - for Beginners
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Not everyone will agree with me but I think an explanation of Roller song for beginners is long overdue. Being an amateur myself I have a lot to learn, and I must say this article is not my thoughts entirely, but was gleaned from study of material given me of which I know not the author. I believe this material will give the beginner an understanding of the Roller song so he will be able to pick a team for show. It is given with the least technical language so as not to confuse. And it is for those without musical knowledge or prior experience, which he will pick up as he goes along just as I am doing myself. I do not profess to know everything about Rollers. Well, here goes.

REGISTER is the key in which each tour is delivered (as compared to soprano, tenor, and bass), high, middle and low -- low register being the best and of greater value.

The best sounds a Roller produces are the vowels A, E, I, O, and U. The consonants out of place makes the song faulty.

HOLLOW ROLL -- As its name implies is of hollow sound and is the foundation of all rolls and tours.

Hollow roll can be delivered in different renderings, the best being produced with the vowels U, UO, or OO with R or RR following thorough, giving the rolling effect.

Example -- the wind blowing past a small hole for the idea of the correct sound, the rise and fall of the sound. There are various types of hollow roll which I will attempt to explain later in this article.

BASS -- Bass roll is a very deep roll, which should be delivered with the beak closed tight to ensure a smooth purring or rolling sound like the purring of a cat.

WATER GLUCKE -- (pronounced like glue ending with a K) -- a double song passage with a beat of glucke and an undertone of water.

Example -- Empty a bottle of water into a deep container. This gives the desired sound with the beat of the glucke and the watery undertone.

GLUCKE -- (pronounced like glue ending with a K). This is the simplest tour for the beginner to understand. The bird actually pronounces the word Glucke -- like

water pouring from a gallon jug (giving the best example of how it should sound).
Try it

GLUCKE ROLL -- A deep roll (with a ground tone of bass and with intermittent beats of Glucke connected with R), giving it a continuous rolling effect.

Example -- Like a motorcycle approaching and going away. Some judges say this tour doesn't exist but is a form of water glucke, while others score the birds for it -- just as some judges fault heavily and others hardly fault at all. No two judges score a Roller the same. This may be due to the performance of the bird at the time or may be the preference of that particular judge. No two people hear the same; however, they all seem to be able to come up with similar scores.

HOLLOW BELL -- This tour is delivered in only two registers, middle and low. The best Hollow Bell is delivered when the voice is changing from a deep Hollow Bell, bringing the best of a bell with vowels O or U, and the consonant L, which gives a rendering of LUL LUL LUL LUL or of LOL LOL LOL LOL.

SCHOCKEL -- This tour is similar to Hollow Bell, only delivered with ground sounds O or U, and consonant H being heard very lightly before the vowels O or U, such as HO HO HO or HU HU HU, similar to a person giving a deep laugh. Schockel is a beat tour, and sometimes sounds like it is coming from a barrel like an echo.

FLUTES -- Again, flutes are a simple tour and may be delivered in all three registers the best being in the low register ... the notes sounding like they are coming from a flute.

Example -- Sustained notes from a flute DU DU DU or DO DO DO. There are also **GLUCKE Flutes** -- the bird starting to pronounce the word Glucke, but instead of finishing the word he sustains the flute sound not pronouncing the K.

WATER ROLL -- This is also a simple tour and sounds like water running over rocks causing the water to ripple. People not familiar with the Roller song have been known to say, "I believe you have left the water running somewhere."

DEEP BUBBLING WATER -- This song passage has the vowels O and U and consonant B, and is a bubbling sound with watery undertone.

Example -- Like bubbles breaking the surface of the water BULB BULB BULB or BLOUB BLOUB BLOUB or BLOB BLOB BLOB; it must be very deep, with watery sound.

BELL ROLL -- In the top register and often follows **HOLLOW ROLL**. Sounds like the tinkling of a tiny bell, and should be softly delivered. It, of course, rolls and has the vowels I and consonant A, the bell sound rolling.
(EDITOR'S NOTE: I'm copying the text -- it must be a mistake because A is not a consonant, but I'm not sure what the author intended here).

BELL TOUR -- Also in the high register but being delivered with a beat like very high short flute notes. And while this tour gets a low score, properly sung it is a thrilling sound to hear. I might say here I don't think this tour gets the credit it deserves. Example -- LIL LIL LIL.

GENERAL EFFECT -- This is the consideration of the quality of the tours sung and not the number of tours sung; and should give you some idea of the quality of tours your particular Roller sings.

FAULTS -- Any delivery of a song passage or anything else that mars the continuity or beauty of the song. Faults are easily distinguished in the song.

FAULTY BEAT GLUCKE are Glicke, Glack, Tut or Chop or having an R which makes it hard.

NASAL TOURS OR ROLLS -- Any passage forced and the bird opens its mouth and gives a harsh nasal tone and is penalized.

FAULTY BELLS -- Too loud or forced.

FAULTY FLUTES -- Sharp or piercing in tone double or triple sounds.

FAULTY BASS -- Sung with beak open giving a harsh sound.

AUFZUG -- Sounds like the ripping of cloth or a window blind and is generally sung with the mouth open.

UGLY INTERJECTIONS -- Any delivery or monotonous delivery of a tour or any sound unpleasing to the ear is considered a faulty, and of course causes the bird to be faulted.

VARIATIONS IN HOLLOW ROLL

BENT HOLLOW ROLL sounds like a Bumblebee flying. Ever hear "Flight of the Bumblebee?"

RISING HOLLOW ROLL -- Just as this phrase says, the Hollow Roll starts out

low and rises. It's just as simple as that.

FALLING HOLLOW ROLL -- Just as simple as Rising Hollow Roll, only instead of rising it starts out higher and drops in register. In other words, it drops.

KULLERING HOLLOW ROLL -- This is a beautiful triple sound and finds the vowels and consonants swirling around each other, like a whirlwind slowly, slowly swirling, with water tones.

TREMULOUS HOLLOW ROLL -- The vowels and consonants swirling around each other without the water undertone.

HOWLING HOLLOW ROLL -- The vowels gain power. They become stronger than the consonant R to the point where the R can hardly be heard, but is still there.

VOCAL HOLLOW ROLL -- Pure vowel sounds with the rolling developed with R.

I have tried to keep this simple so as to make it easy to read and understand. And it is intended to instruct the beginner so he will understand the Roller song and will be able to pick a team for show, and will not feel lost at his or her first show. Wish I had had this material before my first show!

P.S. One more word for the beginner. Volume is of utmost importance. If the bird cannot be heard or his song is not forceful enough, he will get nowhere in the show. At the same time you should not be able to hear him clear down the block. A good example of volume is being able to hear your Roller from another room. Just like an actor or trained singer, he must be able to project his voice.

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