

Singspired by

Aretha Franklin

Born 25 March 1942, American singer and songwriter Aretha Franklin, The Queen of Soul!



Aretha! The embodiment of soul music.

I've met a few students over the years who have found Aretha. Those who haven't, I point them to her. Her singing is a masterclass in soul.

Students are immediately grabbed by her bluesy note choices, her virtuosic licks, her incredible range with no perceivable difference in tonal quality throughout. Some pick up on the less obvious elements of her technique; her phrasing, the way she works around the melody using counterpoint, her effortless syncopation, always finding the pulse in the off-beats - thereby giving her vocals bounce and jazz-flavoured forward motion. So, when students have broken all those down in their listening, injected them into their singing, practised and practised they can get close to Aretha's skillset. But, unless they began their singing life in a gospel music church, few will ever come close to Aretha's sound because there is a 'trance-like' state which gospel singers reach. Their singing is about more than singing, more than the song. It is about a connection with their soul and with

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