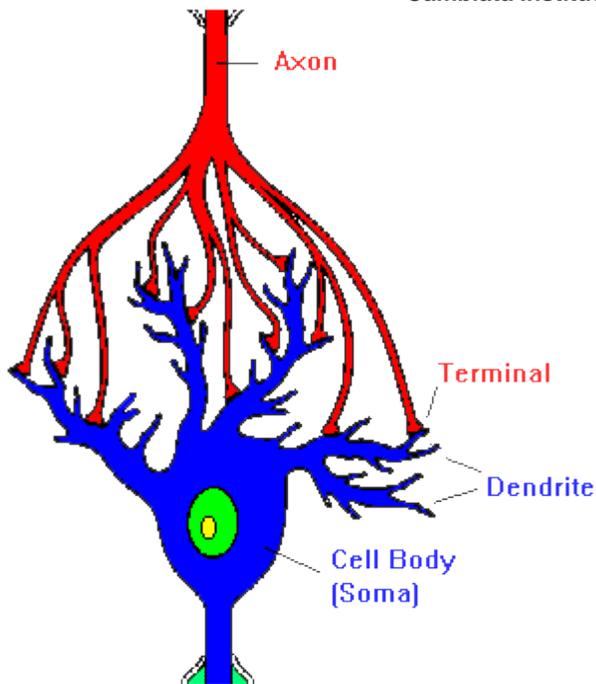


Strategies to Develop Pitch Matching Skills in the Singer with Inconsistent Pitch

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Concept stated in extremely simple, general terms

Neurons have projections called **dendrites** and **axons**. Dendrites carry information to the cell body and axons carry information away from the cell body.

This information travels from one neuron to another neuron via a **synapse**. The synapse terminal includes a small gap or cleft that separates neurons.

When information crosses the synaptic cleft, an electrical response/firing influences the postsynaptic neuron.

Remembering that the voice is a wind instrument that requires an energized breath, let's try to get the inconsistent pitch singer to fire his "specific pitch" synapse. To establish a consistent and dependable "pitch matching" synaptic pathway, multiple successful firings are required.

Technique 1A: Have the uncertain singer produce a pitch of their own liking. Call it [DO] or [1]. Teacher matches with inconsistent pitch singer.

Technique 1B: Have the inconsistent pitch singer produce any pitch of their own liking. Call it [DO] or [1]. Have a consistent pitch singer match with the inconsistent pitch singer.

Technique 2: Have the inconsistent pitch singer produce any pitch of their own liking. Teacher creates an imaginary hand crank in front of the uncertain singer and while the teacher turns the imaginary crank, the teacher asks the uncertain singer to slide to the desirable pitch demonstrated by the teacher or a consistent pitch singer. Demonstrate the process on a consistent pitch singer first, then with the inconsistent pitch singer.

Technique 3: Teacher or consistent pitch singer sings a pitch in an appropriate range for the inconsistent pitch singer: Cambiata example [middle c]. On pitch [middle c], sing an accented a quarter note pattern on the word, Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Have the inconsistent pitch singer echo with the same "loud" energy. Baritone example, try pitch [G].

Technique 4: Arrange a group of same voice-range singers in a circle and ask them to march clockwise in a circle with purpose. Lift the legs! Start a quarter note pattern on a pitch that fits the range of the singers: Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! : Singers march in a circle, while chanting the pattern loudly and accented. Inconsistent singers should begin to match with the consistent pitch singers.