

In her *Russian Lyric Diction Workbook*, Cheri Montgomery has partnered with Vita Koreneva to create an ideal team—one an experienced diction instructor and singer who fully understands the needs of English-speaking singers, and the other a knowledgeable native Russian opera singer and co-founder of DictionBuddy. As in her other wonderful workbooks, Montgomery's examples are taken from standard vocal repertoire, using the most commonly occurring words to aid in graded exercises. IPA serves as a highly useful tool, with symbols carefully chosen to best represent correct sounds. Simultaneously, the reader learns to confidently read Cyrillic, so that IPA can truly serve as a bridge to accurately reading the actual, highly phonetic text. Ingenious is the use of QR codes to provide instant access to 179 audio clips. This new tool certainly sets the standard for future diction books! Especially welcome is the clear description of the formation of Russian's soft consonants, otherwise elusive for many an English-speaking singer, reinforced by the audio clips. The layout of this workbook, the step-by-step guided mastery of sounds, IPA, and Cyrillic, and the clear explanations and audio examples make this book extremely valuable and welcome to today's singers, vocal coaches, and conductors. It can be used in a Russian diction/vocal literature class, or through self-study by those with a solid working knowledge of the standard singing languages. Thank you for this great resource!

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