Jewel Steps Grievance

for female voice
growl

basic vowels (as in Italian) changing the strength of various overtones

tremolo; stop and allow air to pass

nasal: sing notated pitch and produce an overtone (octave ?) at the same time

nasal and tremolo combined

glottal attack

stress the consonance by rolling it (rrrrrr..., llllll...)

change mouth opening by controlling lips position (wide opening – almost completely closed); also changes overtone content/strength but not by much

combine nasal and mouth (lips) opening, use same vowel

slight sound bend, ¼ tone or less

¼ tone higher

¾ tone higher

shorter rest

longer rest

The number of seconds a fragment is supposed to last is marked above bar lines. These indications are only suggestions and the performance which should last about 60 seconds, should have an improvisatory character.

The music may be transposed to better fit the singer's range.

The Jewel Stairs Grievance

The jewelled steps are already quite white with dew,
It is so late that the dew soaks my gauze stockings,
And I let down the crystal curtain
And watch the moon through the clear autumn.

by Rihaku (Li T'ai Po) in Ezra Pound's interpretation
Jewel Steps Grievance

Sever Tipei

Agitated chest voice

The jew-

upset chest voice

Resigned Placid expressionless

head voice non vib.

F о l -

rushing

collected

that the dew soaks my gauze stockings

And I let down the crystal curtain

Calm poco vib. chest voice

And watch the moon through the clear autumn

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