*L*aughter, heartache, effervescence, sacrifice, passion, betrayal, lust, joy, tears, euphoria, scrutiny, desire: welcome to the explosive world of the classically trained singer!

We are those sometimes skittish, often dramatically flamboyant characters who carry our fragile, invisible instrument around with us for every single second of the day and night, while an ever present, finicky spotlight of criticism constantly hovers over us, ready to pounce on our every misstep while we tread cautiously over the most narrow, flimsy tightrope of vocal technique in order to move the hungry listener to tears, or transport them into unbridled ecstasy.

We travel the world in solitude, passing hours in the lonely studio to perfect our "Ah" vowel, and to conquer the most onerous musical phrases requiring the breath control of Olympic athletes. We sweat hours in the gym in order to convincingly portray a 14-year-old pre-pubescent boy chasing anything in a skirt, or an 18-year-old girl dying of consumption who must sing a marathon of treacherous vocalism before finally ceding to death's call 45 minutes later. We engage in constant, painful self-reflection in order to moult the layers of self-criticism and doubt that prevent us from the freedom of expression we need in order to make the potent emotions soar through our vocal cords.

We juggle a multitude of languages, cross five centuries of musical styles, project without amplification over a symphony of upwards of 100 instruments, lay ourselves utterly bare in front of thousands of critical spectators ~ and we do it because we LOVE it, we NEED it, and we can't possibly imagine doing anything else.

We are Classical Singers, and this is our WORLD!

Joyce DiDonato

memorization

nightmare audition (for real)

*" We're looking for a singer with experience in the role,
but something of a blank slate. We have a concept, you see.
You'll need to be able to dance en pointe in a negligee,
and lose 10 pounds for the camera.
We know the room is carpeted,
but if you could project as if you were on stage..."*