

Diction Notes from Kent's E-mail

5-7-10

-Know where ALL double consonants are, and plan to 'close' early on them. In particular look out for the word "denn" [dɛ̃n].

-Know where all 'closed' vowels are, and 'over close' them. Example, the word "der" [de:ɐ̯], which can sound like "Dayr" [deɪ̯] (with the unwanted American [eɪ] diphthong). Sing "deer" [di:ɐ̯]. Giving it the [i] sound will make us sound like a closed German [e]. Note all these places!

-Note the word "Jerusalem" [je'ru:zələm] in No.16. The first syllable is that closed [e] – and the "s" is a [z], not [s].

-Note the word "verstummen" [fɛɐ̯'ʃtʊmən]: the middle vowel is open [ʊ] as in the word 'book' [bʊk].

-In no.38, note the umlaut on "Männer"[mɛ̃nɐ]- it should sound like American 'men' [mɛn] + [ɐ] not 'man' [mæn].

-There may be more to follow, but that's it for now! The main thing is to practice your German so the words feel comfortable in the mouth.