The Voice – Harrison Craig’s Blind Audition

Harrison Craig, an 18 year old from Melbourne, is a contestant in the popular Channel 9 program The Voice Australia 2013 – he has also been suffering from a speech impediment, a stutter his whole life. For his blind audition performance on Monday 8 April, Harrison sang Josh Groban’s song Broken Vow. This text shows the reaction of the judges after Harrison’s audition performance and their conversation with him. Harrison now has the opportunity to choose to work with one of the judges as his coach and mentor.

The following transcription symbols have been used:

<P P> quieter speech / rising pitch
<F F> louder speech \ falling pitch
<L L> slower speech ? questioning intonation
<A A> faster speech . final intonation
( ) short pause , continuing intonation
( . . . ) long pause @@@ laughter
[ ] overlapping speech <H> intake of breath
= lengthened sound - truncated word
____ stress -- truncated intonation unit

H: Harrison Craig (contestant)
S: Seal (judge)
R: Ricky Martin (judge)
D: Delta Goodrem (judge)
J: Joel Madden (Judge)

(Audience applause)
1. S: I can’t contain myself right now/
2. <L It is voices like that that make guys like me wanna coach L> \ (Applause)
3. H: <P Thank [you Seal] P> (Applause)
4. S: That is a wo=nderful instrument that you have there\ (Applause)
5. S: Amazing (.)
6. What’s your name?
7. H: Um (…) Harrison Craig, <P I’m sorry P> @@@
8. S: <A Your name is what, sorry? A>
9. H: (…) Harrison (.) Craig\
10. S: Harrison, that is a gift, [brother]
11. J: [oh yeah] awesome dude (Applause)
12. S: Something tells me you have a really interestin’ story\
13. Because when you sing/ (Applause)
14. It is so natural, you feel so comfortable.
15. H: Ever s- (.) since I could (.) talk,
16. I’ve actually um had a s(.)utter/ (Applause)
17. So it’s kind of (.) <H> great to actually (.) get up here (.)
18. and perform (.) so passionately an-, (Applause)
19. It’s, it’s beautiful, I love it so much.
20. R: @@@@ Beautiful (Audience applause)
21. S: You’ve seen my coaching methods, right?
22. You see how intense I can be/
23. The reason I am intense is because <L intensity begets greatness L>
24. You are great/
25. And it will be my job, and my privilege,
26. to bring the greatness out of you\
27. I don’t care if you stutter, I don’t care,
28. As long as you keep singing like that,
29. I will fight like hell to give you what you want,
30. to bring you closer to your dream. (Applause)
31. J: <F Thank you Seal (Applause)
32. My turn F> (...) 
33. Maybe you might stutter off stage,
34. You definitely don’t stutter on stage, dude,
35. You own the stage, man (Applause)
36. <A I feel like you already know who you are,
37. You already know what you want to do,
38. And where you are going,
39. We’re just lucky enough to witness it tonight A>
40. H: <P Thank you very much P> (Applause)
41. D: Harrison, I believe you are really special/
42. I believe I understand special/
43. And I believe that (.) your journey an-, an- everything you’ve gone through,
44. to then stand up there/
45. and be strong like that/
46. is so inspiring/
47. And (.) I wanna be able to really (.)
you know, help your dreams come true/
48. Where that [may--]
49. J: [I know] Josh Groban (Audience laughter)
50. D: <F I know David Foster very well who produced all of Josh Groban’s albums,
51. so we could go to talk to him about producing your records, okay? F>
52. J: I, I was lying, I don’t know Josh Groban [@@@@] (Audience laughter)
53. D: [@@@@]
54. J: I met him at a party once,
55. but I don’t really remember what we talked about @@@ (Audience laughter)
56. J: I’m just kidding, that’s not true either\ (Audience laughter)
57. D: What is it that you wanna do?
58. Like, what songs do you wanna sing?
59. H: <L Yeah, um, well, my (.) dream is to be a (…) global ah recording artist,
60. that’s (.) where I wanna go/
61. Um, and my kind of (.) s(.), tyle of, um,
62. called it (.) um (…) popera,
63. So it’s like a (.) <H> mix’f, um, con(.), temporary jazz, pop and (.) light opera L>
64. D: You know, I got to, um, I got to tour with-- (Audience laughter)
65. <F Oh, I’m so sorry Ricky, I’m so sorry F>
66. S: Ricky, oh, hi Ricky
67. J: [Oh, Oh]
68. S: [I thought] you went home?
69. J: This is Ricky Martin, by the way/ (Audience laughter)
70. Ricky Martin, he just joined the show, ah--
71. S: I thought you went home, Ricky? (Audience laughter)
72. R: <P I’m letting you talk P>
73. I (.) loved your voice/
74. The way you communicate is (.)
75. It’s beautiful and breathtaking,
76. I will be humbled/
77. if you are a part of my team/
78. And we’ll find really good mu=sic,
79. that will allow you to (.) free yourself,
80. for whatever you have within you,
81. I will do anything, anything you want,
for you to be able to tell your story through music.
It’ll be a beautiful journey.
And I’m really happy (.) to embark on it *(Audience applause)*

So Harrison, it’s time for you to choose *(Audience shouting)*

*It’s your choice* *(Audience shouting)*

Well, if I have to pick one, just one.
Um (…) I would pick (…) *(Audience applause)*