Evoking Sound

THE CHORAL ENSEMBLE WARM-UP

Method, Procedures, Planning, and
The Core Vocal Exercises

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Music Aptitude and The Choral Ensemble

- How well can your choir HEAR?
- Aptitude vs. Achievement
- Relationship of Vocal Technique and Aptitude
- Can The Choral Ensemble Warm-Up Build and Enhance Aural Ability of the Ensemble?
- The Aural and Musical Significance of the CORE EXERCISES

Aptitude Tests

Gordon, Edwin. (PMMA) Primary Measures of Music Audiation. Chicago: GIA.
(For certain also to order scoring masks with test).

EARTRAINING AND AURAL IMMERSION

1. Basic Philosophical Principles
2. The Importance of Listening: Defining the difference between hearing for life and hearing for music
3. The power of the Dominant
4. The power of harmonic surroundings
5. The power of sounding at the same time
6. Self trust and music performance: The philosophy of pointing
7. Singing with awareness.
Basic Assumptions (Excerpted from Ear Training Aural Immersion Exercises for Choirs (Conductor’s manual) Chicago: GIA, May, 2004)

1. Aptitude Testing is a Must.
2. Understand what your choir really hears.
3. Supply aural anchors whenever possible, both in warm-up procedures and the rehearsal process.
4. Surround singers at all times with the harmonic richness and unique qualities of each mode.
5. Do not underestimate the power of solfege syllables sung WITHIN a harmonic environment.
6. Materials are presented in this volume based on hearing or audiating difficulty level.
7. Moving Choral Ensemble from PASSIVE AUDIATION to ACTIVE AUDIATION.
8. The Dominant Function Note in any Mode can never be assumed to be audiated by a choral ensemble.
9. Change and Transform the Depth of Singer’s Listening.

Setting the Atmosphere for Great Singing
- The Human Component
- Why do People Sing in Your Choir?
- Mimetics (from The Musician’s Soul: Chicago: GIA, 2000)
- The Humane Rehearsal
- The Genesis of the Humane Gesture
The Fifteen Pedagogical Rules for Constructing the Choral Ensemble

Warm-up

THE FIFTEEN PEDAGOGICAL RULES

1. DECONSTRUCT POSTURE BROUGHT TO THE REHEARSAL
2. RE-ALIGN AND EMPLOY BODY MAPPING PRINCIPLES TO RE-EDUCATE THE SINGERS
3. CREATE AWARENESS AT ALL TIMES
4. USE OF THE SIGH TO CREATE SPACE AND DIAGNOSE VOCAL ISSUES
5. INHALATE AND EXHALATE
6. GENERATE RESONANCE
7. SING ON THE BREATH AT ALL TIMES
8. BE CERTAIN THAT ALL SOUNDS ARE RHYTHMICALLY VITAL.
9. USE PHYSICAL GESTURE TO REINFORCE THE SINGING PROCESS AND REINFORCE BODY AWARENESS.
10. BE CERTAIN THAT ALL SOUNDS ARE SPACIOUS, HIGH AND FORWARD (SHF)
11. REINFORCE PITCH AWARENESS
12. USE A REPEATED EXERCISE AS HOME: ALWAYS USE CORE EXERCISES
13. USE THE SAME WARM-UP SEQUENCE IN PLANNING EACH WARM-UP
14. LISTEN FOR VOCAL PROBLEMS AT ALL TIMES. IS THE SOUND SPACIOUS, HIGH AND FORWARD (SHF)?
15. MAKE CERTAIN THAT REGARDLESS OF THE EXERCISE, THAT THE LARYGEAL POSITION REMAINS LOW AND RELAXED
Building Vocal Skill:
A Pedagogical Heirarchy for Choirs
Construction of the Warm-up
(*Select exercises from the Core Exercises)

CHORAL ENSEMBLE PEDAGOGICAL HEIRARCHY

The “MUST ALWAYS DO” Box

- Relaxation
- Alignment and Body Awareness (Use of Body Mapping Information)
- Relaxation of the Vocal Tract: Relaxing The Jaw, Tongue and Lips
- Creating Spaciousness (Use of the Sigh)
- Breathing
- Exhalation and Inhalation
- Support
- *Resonance
- General Resonance
- Specific Resonance
- *Vowel Development Hierarchy
- *Register Consistency

Teaching Procedures and Teaching Techniques for the Choral Ensemble Warm-up

The “Optional” Box

- *Dynamics
- *Crescendo/Decrescendo (Messa di Voce)
- *Range Extension Upward
- *Range Extension Downward
- *Leaps
- *Legato
- *Staccato
- *Martellato

The Required Skills Box

- Diction Teaching Principles

AURAL TRANSITION AND ACCLIMATION
- Aural Immersion Exercises
VOCAL ESSENTIALS

SPECIFIC VOCAL TECHNIQUES:
Building the Vocal Technique of the Choir with Needed “Tools.”

The Collective Mentality of the Choral Rehearsal: Teaching Vocal Responsibility And Reinforcing Responsibility with Physical Gesture

Alignment (via Body mapping): CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT THE BODY

-Six Points of Balance
Teaching The Sigh
- Creating resonential space for sound

Breathing
- Inhalation
- Exhalation
- TEACHING Inhalation through the Eight Handed Breathing Exercise

-Support
  The Breath Kneading Gesture: Understanding “singing on the breath.”

Vowels for Vocalization: The Importance of teaching “oo” and “ee”
  Correctly. “oo” and “ee” are the foundation vowels for all other vowels.

Developing Resonances
Register Consistency
Teaching Upward Leaps
Teaching Crescendo-Decrescendo
Teaching Legato, Staccato and Martellato
Teaching Range Extension

Diction Teaching Techniques

SAMPLE CORE EXERCISES
MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM GIA
written by James Jordan
with Core Exercises by Marilyn Shenenberger.

Evoking Sound: The Choral Ensemble Warm-Up—Method, Procedures, and Core Vocal Exercises
G–6397 Hardcover .................................................. $39.95
G–6397A Accompanist Book with CD ................. $24.95
G–6397CD (CD recording of accompaniments) ....... $10.00

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS FOR EAR TRAINING
materials to be used in the choral ensemble warm-up
by James Jordan with Marilyn Shenenberger

Ear Training Immersion Exercises for Choirs—A Companion to Choral Ensemble Intonation
Contains over 150 exercises in all modes for use in the warm-up.
G–6429 Instructor's edition with CD .............................. $39.95
G–6429A Ensemble edition ........................................... $15.95

ADDITIONAL AURAL MATERIALS AND TEXT
Choral Ensemble Intonation (Textbook) James Jordan and Matthew Mehaffey
This book gives detailed explanation of the Aural Immersion Principles and has detailed instructions for the correct analysis for solfege of choral ensemble music.
G–5527T Textbook ........................................................... $24.95
G–5527I Intonation exercises octavo ......................... $1.70
G–5527M Modal exercises octavo ......................... $1.60
Choral Ensemble Intonation (Instructional Video) James Jordan and Matthew Mehaffey
This video details the unique teaching procedures employed in using solfege in the choral rehearsal
VHS–500 VHS Video ....................................................... $24.95

BODY MAPPING SUPPORT
The Structures and Movement of Breathing Barbara Conable
A must for every singer's folder to teach and reinforce Body mapping Principles!
G–5265 Octavo ............................................................. $6.00

Evoking Sound: Body Mapping Principles and Basic Conducting Patterns
James Jordan and Heather Buchanan
This video details BOTH the six points of balance and the proper teaching of the process of inhalation and exhalation)
VHS–530 VHS Video ....................................................... $24.95

Specific performance editions of choral repertoire in the Evoking Sound Choral Series are Sofege Editions with printed solfege and analysis completed by Jordan and Shenenberger. Consult the GIA website:
giamusic.com/scstore/Evoking-Sound.html for a list of all current editions in print.

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