

CHORAL REHEARSAL TIPS

by Meghann Gavin

- ♪ SATB choir positions options:
Men in the middle or not?
- ♪ Number or label your choir folders.
Creates ownership for your members.
- ♪ Provide pencils and have them write in their music!
- ♪ Provide a Choir “Nursery” – takes planning and volunteers but can be very worth it!
- ♪ Don’t assume everyone reads music! Explain musical terms as you go to include everyone.

Unify - Improve - Rehearsal Technician
Keep their attention while learning the music!

- ♪ Sectionals – divide into SA – TB, each part individually, or just one section. Don’t have enough pianists and/or keyboards → record their part and play it back while they practice in a different room.
- ♪ Don’t plunk each part out individually without asking the other sections to do something! For example:
 - “Hum your part while we play the Bass line”
 - “Sing your part while we play the Tenor line”
 - “Follow along and try to memorize your part while we play through the Alto section”

Phrasing

Shape in musical time that makes sense according to the message: all notes are not created equal. Get the shape from knowing importance of words for emphasis. For line and breath – conduct more horizontally.

Score Marking Tips

- + Blue and red pencils for dynamics!
Blue for soft and decrescendo.
Red for loud and crescendo.
- + Meter Changes
- + Breaths with Preparatory Beat
- + Multiple breaths, cut offs, entrances...etc

Music Selections to help build a choir

- ✓ Choose familiar songs
- ✓ Lots of unison is okay!
- ✓ If your choir is lacking men, choose two-part or SAB arrangements
- ✓ *Hymnplicity* and similar publications
- ✓ Use instrumentalists for descants, obbligatos, etc.