



CoChoir Virtual Learning

High School Conducting

April 16, 2020



High School Choir
Lesson: April 16, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target: to learn the basics of
conducting**

THURSDAY, APRIL 16



Chamber Choir/Concert Choir

BELL WORK

- Complete the [google form](#).



LESSON: THE ROLE OF THE CONDUCTOR

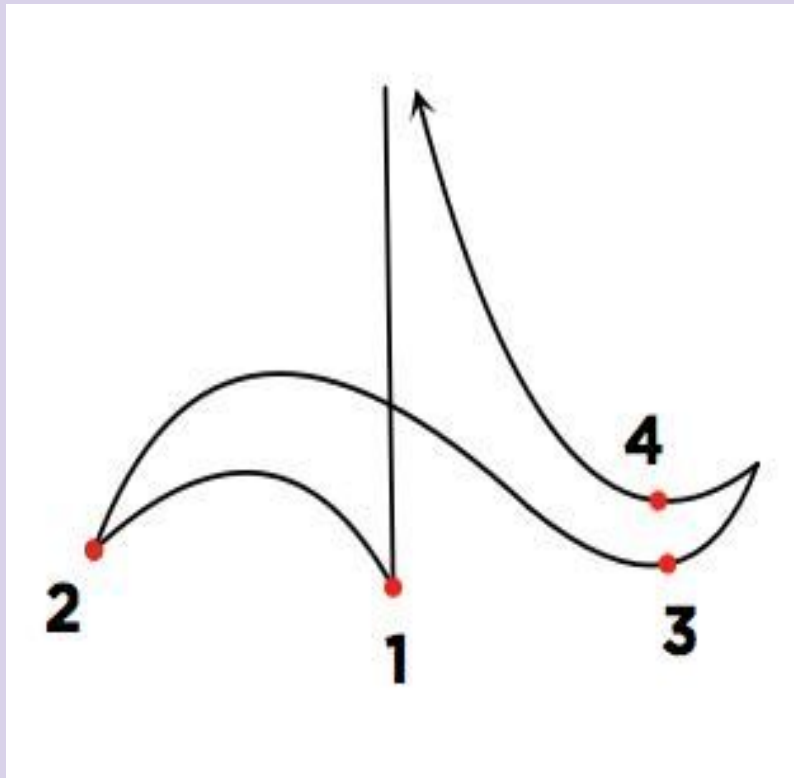
1. Keep musicians together
2. Make musical decisions with the group
3. Show pattern and beat of piece
4. Show phrasing and musicality with movements
5. Show the choir when to enter and cut off in the music



LESSON: THE BASICS

- Posture
 - Standing tall
 - Feet shoulder-width apart
 - Relaxed
 - Sternum slightly lifted
- Hands should be relaxed and slightly rounded
- Elbow should be away from body
 - 6ish inches
- The right hand typically does the time signature pattern and keeps it steady
- The left hand shows dynamics and phrasing
- Hands should be independent: this takes time! Practice conducting a pattern while walking around and picking things up with your left hand

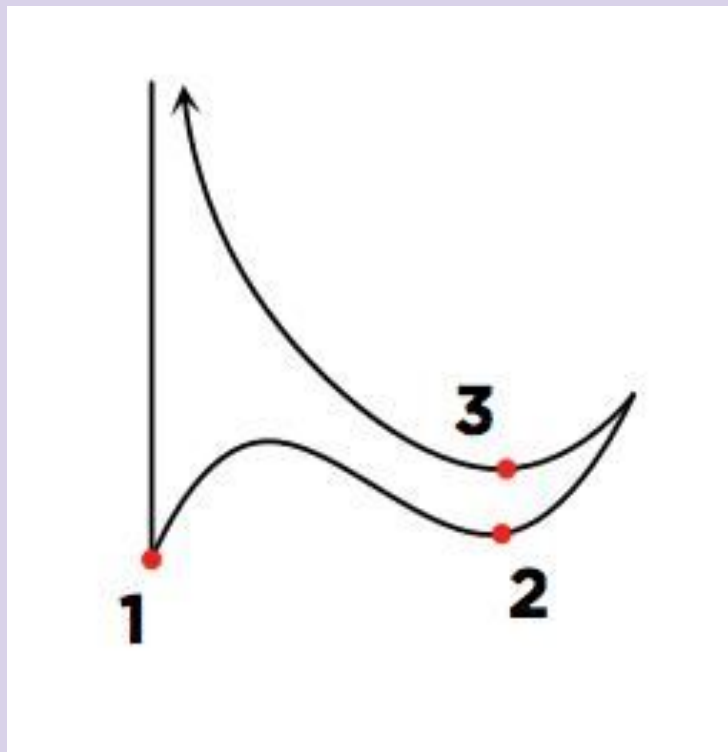
LESSON: 4/4 TIME SIGNATURE



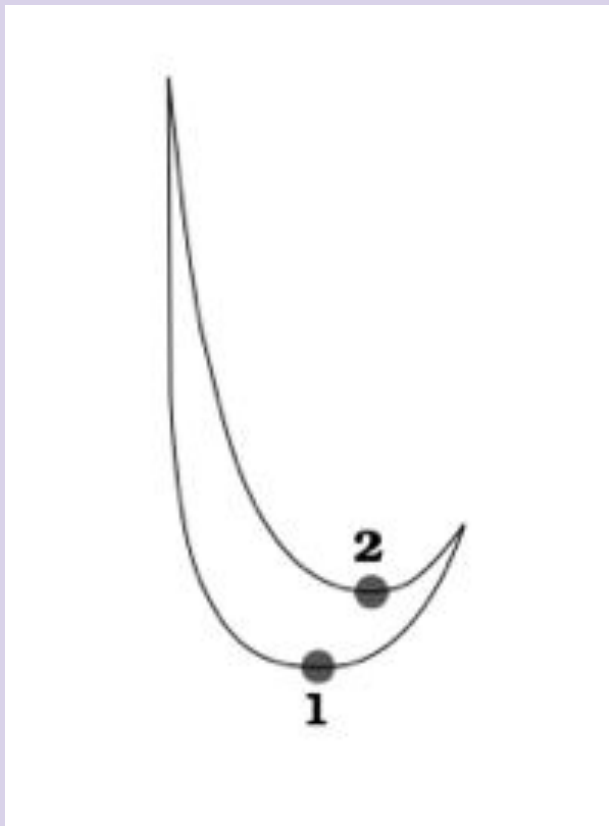
- Use your right hand to practice the pattern
- The numbers represent the beats in 4/4 time
- The big beat (the one that gets the most emphasis) is beat 1
- Listen/watch to [Sing Unto God](#) and try to feel beat 1 and try the pattern
 - This video also has the sheet music so you can follow along!
- The pattern stays constant the entire time
- Practice this pattern until you feel really comfortable with it

LESSON: 3/4 TIME SIGNATURE

- Use your right hand to practice the pattern
- Listen/watch this choir sing [Amazing Grace](#)
 - Feel the beat
 - Look at the conductor and conduct in 3/4
- The pattern should stay constant and the beats should be clear
- Practice this pattern until you feel really comfortable with it



LESSON: 2/4 TIME SIGNATURE



- Use your right hand to practice the pattern
- Yonder Come Day
- Listen and conduct to this piece
- The pattern should be constant and clear
- Practice this pattern until you feel really comfortable with it

THE LEFT HAND

1. Once you have your right hand pattern feeling comfortable, it's time to start working on the left hand
2. The left hand shows:
 - a. Dynamics
 - b. Crescendos and decrescendos
 - c. Phrasing
 - d. Cut offs and entrances
 - e. Style of piece (along with right hand)
3. The ensemble reflects what the conductor shows
4. Watch [this video](#) about how the entire body can portray emotions and style of the music

LESSON: CHALLENGE

1. With your right hand palm out, draw a square in the air. With your left hand palm out, draw a triangle. Now, try and put them together and moving at the same time. Go slow and really focus on each shape. Eventually, your hands should meet at the top together. This gets easier the more you do it.
2. Once you feel like you have a good handle on the pattern alone, try doing one of the patterns (4/4 is the most common) while doing things with your left hand. Try picking up your room or getting water while keeping your right hand conducting.
 - a. This practices independence between your hands

ADDITIONAL PRACTICE

Songs in 4/4

- Sir Duke

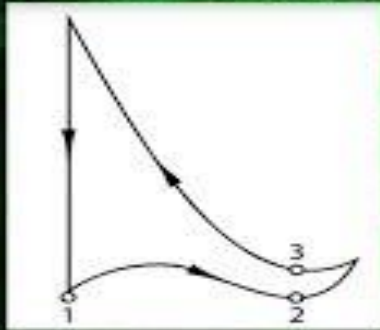
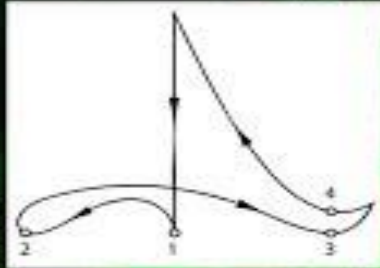
Songs in 3/4

- Firewood

Songs in 2/4

- You Make My
Dreams Come True

ONLINE RESOURCE



HOW TO CONDUCT

4/4 & 3/4