



Choir Virtual Learning

Women's Choir/Adjudication

May 20, 2020



Lesson: May 20, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: Students will review information discussed in previous weeks and adjudicate two choirs based on that knowledge.

Bell Work

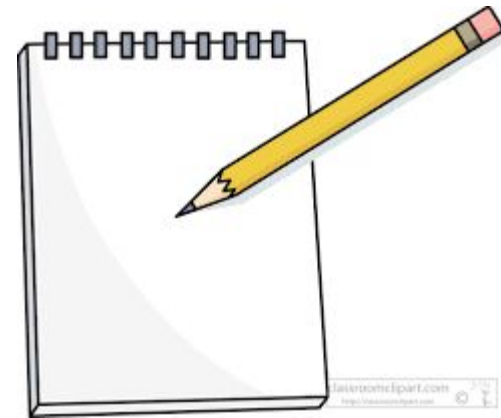
What information do you recall about the following terms?

1. Tone
2. Balance/Blend
3. Dynamics
4. Intonation
5. Posture
6. Tempo
7. Phrasing
8. Musicality



What is Adjudication?

Adjudication is the act of judging something and giving a final decision. It could be a case in the courtroom, or a choir in the music hall. Many times choirs are adjudicated in order to receive feedback on how to get better, or so they can advance in a contest or competition. It's important when adjudicating that you as the judge be consistent in what you hear, have an idea about your standards for performance and that you provide comments that justify your score or rating. Let's review a few terms before we begin the adjudication process.



Tone/Balance and Blend

We know that tone is determined by different variables within the ensemble. Ideally, we would like choirs to sing with a warm, rich and resonant tone. It should have a beautiful, shimmering quality.

Balance and blend are critical components of great singing. Can you hear sections or voices sticking out in the sound that shouldn't be? Are there undesirable tones that you hear that shouldn't be present. The choir should sound as one voice and present a unified sound.



Dynamics/Intonation

Dynamics are how loud or soft music is performed. It is desirable to perform a variety of dynamics. Some of those dynamics are marked in the score and others are implied.

Intonation is the tuning of the group. When evaluating a group, we must listen for each individual section as well as each member, how they tune, and how they are listening to the entire group.

Dynamics

How loud or soft.



Posture/Tempo

Check out the posture and stage presence of the ensemble you are adjudicating. Do they all have a uniform way of standing? Are they demonstrating correct singers posture? Are the members doing anything that distracts or takes away from the performance? All of these things we can look for when judging posture.

The tempo must be appropriate for the piece. Maybe the piece is too fast or too slow. Maybe the tempo is not steady. The tempo is normally indicated in the music and should be followed relatively closely. There is always room for interpretation, but within reason.



Phrasing/Musicality

Phrasing and musicality work together during a performance. Phrasing is determined by the number of measures in a musical line, how the poetry is interpreted, and punctuation. The ensemble should have a unified idea about the phrasing. If there is a phrase where the conductor is indicating not to breathe, all members of the ensemble should not breathe. If 5-10 people take a breath, the phrasing is not unified.

Musicality is determined by the effectiveness of the musical performance. It's more than just good or bad. Did the group interpret the musical score correctly? Did they sing with a beautiful tone? Were they singing in tune? Did the members of the group look engaged and unified in music making? As an audience member, were you moved at all by the performance? These are all things to take into account when listening for phrasing and musicality.

You Be the Judge!

We will now begin the adjudication process. Here are some things to remember.

1. You will be giving ratings in all areas of performance from 1-3. 1 is the best. Choirs may not perform each task at a 1 rating. Maybe their posture is a 1 but their intonation a 2. As you listen, make sure that you understand that markings could vary for different aspects of the performance.
2. Based on the markings you make while listening, you will give the choir an overall rating. Think about what you heard and consider your markings. If you heard exemplary music making, give a 1. If it was really good but not great, a 2. If there is plenty of room to improve, give a 3.
3. Comments are important because they justify your rating. What is the reasoning behind your rating? Fundamental technique comments will address how the choir is producing sound and making music. Musical effect comments will address tempo, stage presence, ensemble precision, and overall quality of the performance.

Adjudication Form

Click the link to view the adjudication form. Familiarize yourself with it before you begin listening to the performance. There will be two performances. Each performance will consist of two songs. Listen to both songs in their entirety and fill out the form as you listen. Submit the form when you are finished.

<https://forms.gle/1p1gFVJT4uyZLTyi9>



Choir #1

Song 1- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOPy0rnHzqE&list=RDd-GbWve6EuE&index=15>

Song 2- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJP823VbGXo>



Choir #2

Here is the link to a new adjudication form. <https://forms.gle/1p1gFVJT4uyZLTyi9>

Song #1- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smA9xuR-khs>

Song #2- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_JDGXmqGqE



Thoughts?

1. How was your experience as the judge?
2. Did you find it challenging?
3. Were you able to give feedback that justified your rating?
4. Was it something you enjoyed?
5. How can you use the information you know to inform your own singing and performing moving forward?



Extra Practice!

Can you find a recording on youtube from your school and fill out one more adjudication form?

<https://forms.gle/1p1gFVJT4uyZLTyi9>



Thanks for your hard work today!

