



Concert Choir Virtual Learning

High School A Cappella Groups

April 29, 2020



High School Concert Choir
Lesson: April 29, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: students will be able to understand the elements of contemporary a cappella and listen for them in examples

BELL WORK

Write down the following:

- Define *a cappella*
- What is the genre of “contemporary a cappella”?
- Can you name an a cappella group?



CONTEMPORARY A CAPPELLA

- College a cappella groups have been around for decades
- Shows like the *Sing Off* started to put together a cappella groups
- Pentatonix won the *Sing Off* in 2011 and gained major popularity
- The movie *Pitch Perfect* put this genre even more into the spotlight



CONTEMPORARY A CAPPELLA

- The competition from the movie *Pitch Perfect* is real!
 - a. International Competition of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA)^{1.}
 - b. International Competition of High School A Cappella (ICHSA)
 - c. College and high school groups compete across the nation every year
 - d. They create a 12 minute performance with 3-4 songs, dance, and transitions



IG || @pitch_slapped

ELEMENTS OF CONTEMPORARY A CAPPELLA

1. The arrangements (written covers of songs) that these groups sing are done with no instruments
2. Parts of the group:
 - a. Beatboxer/Vocal Percussion
 - b. Bass (sings bass line on syllables like “dm” or with the other parts)
 - c. Soloists
 - d. Inner parts (SATB, SSAA, or TTBB)
3. Dance
 - a. Simple moves
 - b. Formations
4. Tuning and Intonation play a huge role in a successful group (just like choir)
5. The songs are usually arranged by someone in the group
 - a. They can make the arrangement very similar to the original or very different

CONTEMPORARY A CAPPELLA

In the following videos, listen and watch for:

- a. Vocal Percussion/Beatboxer
 - i. Holds mic close to face
- b. Soloist
- c. SATB parts
 - i. See if you can listen for specific parts
- d. Dance/movements
- e. Expressiveness
- f. Syllables they use to imitate instruments or sounds
 - a. Doo, dah, wah, bum, etc.
 - g. Intonation/Tuning
 - h. Do you recognize the song? Is it similar to the original? Different?

PENTATONIX- BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY



A CAPPELLA - BEST PART



A CAPPELLA-STRASBOURG ST. DENIS



A CAPPELLA- EVERGREEN



MORE PRACTICE

[BYU Vocal Point](#)

[Berklee College of Music](#)

[A Cappella Academy](#)

Here are a couple more awesome a cappella groups that you should check out.

