



Men's Choir

Listening Lesson

April 29, 2020



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Objective/Learning Target:

Students will learn about phrasing and dynamics in an ensemble.



Warm Up

1. On a separate piece of paper, write what the following words mean to you:
 - a. Phrasing
 - b. Dynamics

If you are having trouble, use this link to help:

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/>



Last week we talked about blend and balance. This week is about dynamics and phrasing. Dynamics in a choral setting are how loud and soft a group can get. The change in volume comes with a necessity to change the amount of air you sing with. The softer you get, the more air support you need. This is because if you try to sing with barely any air coming out, there will be no sound. Phrasing is about how you interpret the piece. You could sing through half a phrase and take a breath, but that may break up the intention of the words. Both dynamics have something to do with breath support. Breath support when it comes to phrasing is about how to plan your breath so that you may sing through the whole phrase without taking a breath. Each phrase could have its own growth and decay of dynamics as well.



How do we fit all 6 together? Timbre, Intonation, Blend, Balance, Dynamics, and Phrasing.

Timbre is your individual voice. Intonation is how your individual voice stays in tune with your section. Blend is everyone in your section's combined sounds being in tune and not hearing individual voices. Balance is achieved on a larger scale between all voices in the choir. In essence, the order in which I explained them goes from small to large scale.

Dynamics in a group setting require everyone growing and decaying their sound together. The most effective moments come from everyone changing dynamics together. Phrasing is how you take all 5 of the other things and apply them into every phrase of the poetry that you are singing.



Practice

Let's determine what would be an example of good dynamics/phrasing and poor dynamics/phrasing.

Ex. 1: <https://youtu.be/hJHWCUaa4sY>

Ex 2: <https://youtu.be/h1PYhWExpWE>

Ex 3: <https://youtu.be/Hmll-Fceshc>



Individual Practice

Your goal here is to listen to the links and based solely on the dynamics/phrasing, you should rank these groups on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being the worst and 5 being the best.

1. <https://youtu.be/JTUVnWYScP8>
2. <https://youtu.be/Ola7VfWOSxY>
3. <https://youtu.be/d-GbWve6EuE>
4. <https://youtu.be/y7TaAFyvviM>
5. <https://youtu.be/WUQdyKhu91Y>



Additional Practice

For extra practice, think about a piece or pieces that you have done. Go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and look up 5 performances of the piece(s) and rank them based on dynamics/phrasing.