



# Choir Virtual Learning

## Women's Choir/Rehearsal Technique

May 7, 2020



Lesson: May 7, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target: Students will learn best practices in regards to rehearsal technique.**

# Bell Work

Think about your own choral rehearsals and your fellow choir members.

- a. Do your rehearsals run smoothly?
- b. Is everybody focused and on task?
- c. What do you love about your rehearsals?
- d. What frustrates you about your rehearsals?

# Roles in Rehearsal

Teacher/Conductor- Your teacher's job is to clearly communicate the procedures you will perform upon entering the room. You are aware of where your materials are, where you stand and what you will need for the day. Teachers will also have a plan for the rehearsal. They have specific things to accomplish each day and need your help in accomplishing those tasks.

Choir members- Being a choral member is more than just showing up and singing. There are so many things that go into productive rehearsals that students are in charge of each day. How they conduct themselves in a rehearsal setting will dictate how well the group performs and the atmosphere during rehearsals.

# Characteristics of a great rehearsal

## Minimal Distractions

Choral members should limit movement in and out of the rehearsal space. They should also limit movement within the space. Extraneous movements cause a deflection of attention. If attention is deflected, you will not know where to begin or what directions were given.



# Pacing

The conductor and students are working together in sync. The conductor gives instructions and singing immediately follows. This back and forth between the conductor and the singers should be rarely interrupted. It's kind of like a game of ping pong with singing.



# Minimize Noise

Students should be quiet and attentive throughout the entire rehearsal. You should refrain from talking to your neighbor about anything, even things related to music. All questions should be directed towards the conductor.

Transitions between songs are also important. Sometimes those transitions will be silent, meaning you will just move from song to song without talking. Other times conductors will allow a brief moment of conversation while transitioning to other songs.

Hands Up- When the conductor is ready to begin, his/her hands will go up. This is a signal that all conversations and extraneous noise should cease and singers should be on task and ready to sing. This should be immediate.

# Preparation

Things conductors should never hear.

1. I forgot/lost my music.
2. I left my music at home.
3. I didn't practice.
4. I cannot come to rehearsal.
5. I cannot come to a performance.
6. Where are we starting?
7. What song are we on?
8. I don't have a pencil.





# Preparation Cont..

Out of respect for the planning and preparation your teacher/conductor has done, you should do the same. You should want to be prepared with all of your materials and you should want to sing and sing well!.

1. Have a pencil in your folder at all times. You will never remember every detail of every rehearsal. Markings are important for your remembering things as well as creating continuity between rehearsals.
2. Have your music at all times. You can't look at the music a few times and have the finer details memorized. Look at the scores and commit more than notes and words to memory. Make music!
3. Practice. What did you learn in rehearsal. Go over those things after the fact on your own. Listen to practice tracks if provided. Help reinforce your learning.

# Be A Leader

Each member of the choir is incredibly important to the overall product the choir produces. Even if you don't feel like you have a super awesome voice, you can still be a great leader.

1. Follow all the rehearsal expectations and model them to those around you.
2. Be prepared each day with all of your materials.
3. Learn your music as quickly as possible.
4. Be a positive and energetic person.
5. Ask quality questions and help clarify any issues you or your section may be experiencing.

# Practice

Here is a link to a choral rehearsal. Watch the first 5 minutes. What things do you notice about their rehearsal technique? How would you rate this rehearsal on a scale from 1-10, 10 being the highest.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=891syug5RW4>

# Compare

Listen to this rehearsal and compare with the one you just viewed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPh8fTTo1c>

What are your thoughts after viewing this clip?

# Extra Practice

Locate another rehearsal on youtube and watch for great rehearsal technique or ways they can improve.



Extra Practice

# Lesson Reflection

- What are your thoughts after this lesson?
- What are some things you will do differently in your own rehearsals?
- What are some things you already do really well?
- Name 5 things that will contribute to a great rehearsal!



Thank  
You!

The image features the words "Thank You!" in a vibrant, 3D-style font. The word "Thank" is rendered in a gradient of pink, purple, and orange, while "You!" is in a gradient of teal and light green. The letters have a thick, black outline and a beveled, three-dimensional appearance. Several yellow five-pointed stars are scattered around the text, some appearing to be attached to the letters. A pink ribbon is draped across the top of the word "Thank". The entire graphic is set against a plain white background.