



Freshman Women's Choir Conducting Lesson

April 16th, 2020



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Objective/Learning Target: The Student will learn basic conducting patterns and expressive gestures for music making.

Warm Up

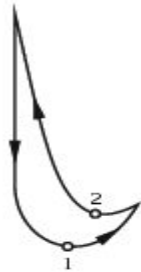
On a separate piece of paper, answer the following:

1. What does a Conductor do?
2. What do you think goes into conducting choir?
3. What happens if the conductor's Pattern is unclear?

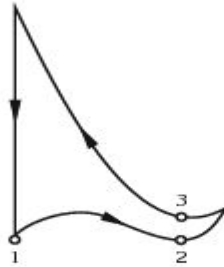


Conducting at a glance: <https://youtu.be/VuDbwwX-V1U>

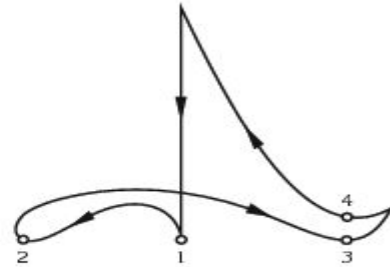
When it comes to basic conducting, we normally focus on 3 different patterns. One for 2/4, one for 3/4, and one for 4/4 time:



2
4



3
4



4
4



What Does A Conductor Do?

- 1. Gives information to the choir like when to begin and stop singing.**
- 2. Keeps the tempo for the singers/musicians while they are performing.**
- 3. Gives information about how the piece should be performed stylistically (Ex. Lyrical, short, heavy etc.)**
- 4. Responsible for realizing the thoughts that the composer had written in their score.**



Creating Independence

Conducting takes almost as much hand/arm independence as it takes an accompanist to play underneath a choir.

We are going to practice making your hands to do separate things. In one hand, you should put your thumb up and in the other hand, you should point your index (1st) finger away from your body. Now try to swap hands. Try it slowly and then speed up.



Practice

Now we are going to practice keeping a beat. You should follow this link: [Metronome](#) and set it to 80 bpm. Try to pat on one leg along with the beat. After you feel like you have it, turn the metronome off and see if you can keep the beat going. After a short time with it off, turn it back on and see if you kept the same tempo. After you do this at 80, try it at 100, 120 and 150 bpm.



Individual Practice

Now instead of tapping the beat, we are going to translate the conducting pattern to your hands. Instead of tackling all three patterns at once, you should start with the 2/4 pattern. With your right hand, move down and then back up using the pattern to the right. Start at a slow tempo using the metronome from slide 7 and then get progressively faster.



Additional Practice

For extra practice, you should use the 3/4 and 4/4 pattern. For the 3 pattern, with your right hand, move down, out away from you, and then back up using the pattern to the right. For the 4 pattern, with your right hand, move down, to your left, back out to your right and then up using the pattern to the right. With both of these patterns, start slowly and get progressively faster.