Men's Choir Listening Lesson

April 15th, 2020

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Objective/Learning Target:
The Student will learn about listening and intonation in an ensemble

1. On a separate piece of paper, write what the following words mean to you:
a. Intonation
b. Timbre (pronounced tamber)

If you are having trouble, use this link to help:
https://www.merriam-webster.com/

Timbre at a glance: https://youtu.be/AjJLAcDb_MU

Intonation is whether or not something is in tune. Notes/music that is out of tune, often is easily noticeable to our ears. In a choral setting, this is when we ask students to listen across the ensemble and make the necessary adjustments.

How do these two fit together?

Timbre is each voice in an ensemble having a unique tone quality. If the **timbre**s don't blend together, often times we will sound out of tune. In other words, our **intonation** is off. In a rehearsal/performance setting, teachers ask students to make sure that the pitches that you sing are in harmony and that everyone's individual timbres are not causing you to stick out/ be out of tune.

Good Intonation: https://youtu.be/Hc8gYoXkLZ4

Poor Intonation: https://youtu.be/wk-S7JIMH44?t=30
(Not to make fun, this piece is very difficult for professionals, let alone for middle schoolers who just started learning their instruments)

Let's determine what would be an example of good intonation and poor intonation.

Ex.1: https://youtu.be/-qZ4u_2ZAlc

Ex 2: https://youtu.be/2ca5y1qj848

Ex 3: https://youtu.be/0fDIZj9BX9U?t=56

Your goal here is to listen to the links and based <u>solely</u> on the <u>intonation</u>, 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/j4PNOSjVRFM
2. https://youtu.be/y_TkJRegWUg
3. https://youtu.be/b0vye3adDJw
4. https://youtu.be/h9kDfrVhUDo

For extra practice, think about a piece or pieces that you have done. Go to youtube.com and look up 5 performances of the piece(s) and rank them based on intonation and blend.