

Men's Choir

Listening Lesson

April 22, 2020



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Objective/Learning Target:

Students will learn about listening, blend, and balance in an ensemble.



Warm Up

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

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

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



Last week we talked about timbre and intonation. This week is about similar but separate things. Blend in a choral setting is the ability for every individual in a section to create a unified sound. Often, this get mistaken as individuals singing softer and allowing the person with the strongest voice to stand out. It really means that every individual needs to output the same amount of sound in tune with one another. Balance is about every section in an ensemble sounding at the same volume level so that you can perfectly hear every separate part. Directors normally work on blend then balance.



How do we fit all 4 together? Timbre, Intonation, Blend & Balance.

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.



Good Blend and balance: <https://youtu.be/hBUAXyjllsQ>

Poor Blend/Balance: <https://youtu.be/hcyn9fBqCjY>
(Not to make fun, there are just times that certain parts stick out and at times we lose certain parts)



Practice

Let's determine what would be an example of good blend/balance and poor blend/balance.

Ex. 1: <https://youtu.be/CUvE6i1l2do>

Ex 2: https://youtu.be/cjSj0Adm_AM

Ex 3: <https://youtu.be/kjfkQv7Pzbk>



Individual Practice

Your goal here is to listen to the links and based solely on the blend/balance, 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/y7TaAFyvviM>
2. https://youtu.be/t0_fk_s7eCs
3. <https://youtu.be/ajoCAgdWIWk>
4. <https://youtu.be/ftltlr88ECo>
5. <https://youtu.be/Zyo6qbHKGKA>



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 blend/balance.