

Effective Rehearsal Leadership

Time Management in the Choral Rehearsal

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Definition of Leadership

“Social influence on mission accomplishment. Getting effective cooperation of other people and to harness the resources provided by that cooperation to the attainment of that goal.”

Definition of “to Conduct”

Conduct comes from the Latin word *conducere* which means to lead together. In Webster’s dictionary, the word is defined as: to direct the course of, or to guide, to lead.

So how do we lead and guide our students?

Goal Setting – SMART:

Specific
Measurable
Accountable
Realistic and....
Timed

Goal Setting – SMART

- **Specific:**
 - Should be shared with the choir
 - Define desired result
 - Avoid using terms like “more”, “better”, “lots”, etc.
- **Measurable**
 - Quantitative results
 - Define results that can be measured by someone not involved
- **Accountable**
 - Share the goal with someone or some group to which you are accountable

- **Realistic**
 - Make sure results are attainable
 - Challenge enough to encourage growth
- **Timed**
 - Need for a specific deadline to reach expected results
 - Must allow sufficient time for full realization of results

So how do we become “SMART”er in our choral rehearsals?

Successful Rehearsals

- **Qualities of Excellent Rehearsals:**
 - Score preparation and appropriate music selection
 - Rehearsal time is well planned
 - Stimulating, exciting, and creative rehearsals

It’s all about organization

Fibonacci Numbers and Golden Proportion in Art, Architecture and Music

Four Distinct Traits of SMART Rehearsals

- Direction
- Duration
- Maximum Intensity
- Would be success



Motivation

- A traditional 60-minute rehearsal:
 - Warm-ups (6 minutes)
 - First musical composition (5 minutes)
 - Second composition (8 minutes)

- Third composition (13 minutes)
- Fourth Composition (21 minutes)
- Final Selection (8 minutes)

For further success

- Have empathy with your singers
- Try to solve problems with gesture rather than words
- Plan those rehearsals

Every Rehearsal

- List music on the board
- Go through lots of music
- Start and end on time
- In a church setting, do anthems more than once to help build perfection
- Make minutes count

Motivation is the most important part of learning.

Twelve Roadblocks to Mutual Learning

- Ordering, commanding, directing
- Warning and threatening
- Moralizing or preaching
- Advising or offering solutions
- Giving logical arguments
- Indulging, criticizing, disagreeing
- Name calling
- Praise agreeing (i.e. phony praise)
- Reasoning or sympathizing
- Interrogating
- Withdrawing
- Sarcasm

A successful rehearsal...

- Is treated as a work in progress
- Has expectations or goals
- Will use gesture rather than speech to solve problems
- Starts and ends on time
- Has a list of music to be rehearsed

- Takes place in a clean and organized room
- Is one where the singer shares in the responsibility of the rehearsal
- Starts at a level the choir can attain
- Is one where the conductor's body is free from tension
- Is one where the minutes count
- Satisfies and antagonizes the students to learn clear, positive goals
- Is one where each singer has a sense of ownership

To maintain a rehearsal

- Use humor
- Respect your singers
- Be enthusiastic
- Score preparation – DO IT!
- Value choristers time by being prepared
- Warm rehearsal demeanor
- High, attainable goals