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Citation

Article #1- Appropriate Voicings for Middle School Choruses
Lon Beery
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Discussion

This article addressed what choral directors should consider when voicing middle schoolers. Many of the concepts that were covered were vocal and technical limitations, musical appeal, textual suitability, and appropriate voicings. When starting as a new choral director, the information of knowing how to voice my students in choir will be very helpful and most beneficial to the choir itself. It covered the difference between Middle and Junior High Choruses, and the typical voice parts that are in each. When positioning students in the choirs, balancing and unison singing are important factors. The director must be aware of how many girls and boys there are, and what sort of sound they will produce with these individuals. After figuring out the balance and proper voicings comes deciding which strategy of part-singing will work best with the choir. There are three main types that are discussed: two-part treble, four-part mixed, and three-part voicings. Each of these different types will vary depending on the skill-level of the students and complexity of the repertoire. Within knowing those voicings, it is necessary to know the voice parts that young boys will have. These voice parts range from cambiata to midvoice II to midvoice IIA to new baritone. Knowing these vocal parts and having students sing to figure out which part they best fit in will help the teacher to make the ensemble sound the best it can. All of these aspects have to do with how to properly voice middle school choruses.

In my future music classroom, I need to be prepared to work with middle school choruses and those young and changing voices. By reading this article I now understand the techniques that can be used and what to expect when auditioning singers to find out what voice part best suits them. I feel that I will definitely use the information about what type of part-singing to use in my choirs especially because it will be helpful to know the level of skill in the choirs and how they can be placed in the choir. This article will be incredibly helpful to me when voicing my students in the future choruses I will have, and will reference it to know exactly what is proper and correct in terms of strategies to voice students.