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MUSE 356- Choral Methods

Citation

Article #7- Rehearsal Breaks: Taking Advantages of Learning Styles in the Choral Rehearsal
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Summary

Successful choral directors must not only be competent musicians but also skillful educators. Teachers must understand students' unique learning styles, those of which can be through seeing, hearing, or doing. Providing a variety of activities that cover all these areas of learning will benefit all students with their unique styles. Choral directors should use visualization (seeing) in every rehearsal, specifically containing concrete and abstract strategies. Teaching with visualization particularly helps those students who learn best through seeing, but it also reinforces learning of those students who take in information best in other ways. Writing on the blackboard and posting pictures of music symbols are both examples of visualization. Audiation just like visualization should be used in everyday rehearsal, to develop students' listening skills. Teachers should be sure to teach students' specifically how to listen properly with strategies. Silent singing and having students audiate pitch movement are both examples of audiation. Locomotion is another way many students learn best. Students would do motions or movements in order to understand the concepts they are being taught. This can be done by conducting, moving arms with pitches, and dancing specifically focused on rhythm are examples of locomotion.

There are more specific techniques that can be used to help students learn the best. Exaggeration is simply having students exaggerate or make greater everything they do, from singing ranges to diction and dynamics. Isolation is the act of focusing on one task at a time. This can be done by having singers sing only on the vowels in the piece, or by having some students sing their line of music while the others only hum theirs. Variation is changing up the way the music is sung to be almost the complete opposite. This can be done by speeding up a slow-paced song or even changing the key of the piece to adjust intonation. Imitation is the act of having the students echo back or repeat activities that are performed. Having students echo back pitch patterns or clapping back rhythms are examples of imitation. Choral directors should also take try to combine these different techniques, particularly one of the major three and one of the more specific ones. Being creative with a variety of these techniques will result in a more engaged classroom and students will learn from all those styles.

Discussion

I have always been the type of person who learns best from doing an activity instead of simply seeing it or hearing it. This article gave terrific insight into how

differently students learn, and how we as teachers should adhere to all of these styles. Getting into specific techniques allowed me to fully understand what sorts of strategies to use when planning lessons. I will remember this article and the different styles of learning in my future classroom, creating different learning environments and techniques that will help all my students to learn best and enhance their learning in other areas. I will particularly combine those techniques such as audiation and imitation (just as an example) to increase my students' musical abilities.