

Kathleen Klosterman
MUSE 356- Choral Methods

Citation

Chapter 1: Becoming a Choral Music Director
Kenneth H. Phillips
2004

Study and Discussion Question

1. Have you had a choral director who was a significant influence on your wanting to become a choral music educator? Describe the attributes of this person.

I had the same choral director through middle school and high school, so that was for six years of my life. I admired my choral director earlier in my choral career because I loved music and thought she was so knowledgeable about music and was a tremendous musician. Throughout those same years though, I was in band, and learned how to read music and musical concepts through this and choir. This boosted my musical ability and I was proud at my progress through both of these arts. I came to learn though, that my choral director was not preparing me to be the best musician I could be and did not prepare me as well for the future. She had a very cheerful and peppy personality that was great to see everyday and it took a lot to get her angry. Being an elementary music teacher first, you can see that she has a mentality for teaching young students, and brought that into her older level classes. I am grateful to her because of some of the instruction she gave us. She made us do sight-reading every single day, but there was no formal instruction on how to do well in this area, we were just supposed to catch on. She didn't do a variety of literature until my senior year, everything else was religious music of some sort, and that did not broaden our musical minds. We also did the same warm-ups every single day, and we only sang in choir the entire period and didn't learn anything to better our comprehensive musicianship. She did give us theory sheets that we were supposed to do for a grade, but we didn't ever learn more complex concepts in the theory of music and were just supposed to guess or rely on those people who had taken piano or were in band. Her grading policy was not commendable and right for any high school choral program, and this angered many people in the community. In my classroom in the future I will teach my students to be literate musicians, will teach theory and musical concepts that will better their comprehensive musicianship, and will better them and prepare them for the future so they may have music with them forever. I desire to teach my students all of the information I know about music and broaden their minds to the wonder and amazement that is music.