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Citation

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Discussion Question

17. What happens when “programming to entertain” becomes the sole objective?

Programming to entertain the audience can be a fun way to present a concert, but is not the best way to program a concert. A teacher should consider the audience when programming their concerts, so their repertoire is not too complex for the audience, and also so the audience is not bored. Teachers sometimes take this too far, and only want the audience to be entertained; therefore, they are looked at as entertainers. A concert should be a representation of what has been learned throughout the students’ time in music class. The teacher should do repertoire then, that shows the achievement of the choir and the musical maturity that took place over the past weeks, months, etc. A choir must know that when popular music is done for entertainment that it will not sound the same way it does on the radio, and the recording will sound completely different. Choirs should embrace those songs and make them their own, and learn musical concepts and characteristics from them. Many times concerts to entertain are seen as a “show” and not a recitation of their musical growth and learning. A teacher should challenge the audience with the tunes, and give them the opportunity to learn something from those pieces the choir is performing. Programming can be done correctly when the conductor keeps in mind that the students still need to learn something in the process, what the audience may like to hear, and those songs that match the national standards.