

My 3Choral Cs

Communication, Community and Content

Communication

- With your singers -
- With your
parents / guardians / administration / faculty -
- With your colleagues-

Community

- Within your choirs/ensembles
- Within your school/cluster/neighborhood/town/city

Content

- Select a sightreading methodology
- Use it consistently through the entire school year
- Solfege/Curwen handsigns – become as familiar/facile with them as possible

Ladder work

- Scales – diatonic
 - Major – Ionian
 - Minor – natural (aeolian), melodic, harmonic
 - On-sight identification (rapid fire solfege – rfs)
- Exercises – drills
 - Slinky (d~l, t~s, l~f, s~m, etc.)
 - In 5/8
 - Triadic (d~l~f~l~d, t~s~m~s~t, l~f~r~f~l, etc.)
 - In 7/8

Melodic Examples

- Keys –

- Identifying major

Order of #s – FCGDAEB (fat cats get down and eat bananas)

Order of bs – BEADGCF (reverse of #s order)

- Use variety of major keys

- Use of repetition, sequences
 - Consider placing on board/track with laser pen
 - Simple rhythms 2/4, 3/4, 4/4
 - Compound meters 6/8, 9/8, 12/8
 - Introduction of “dreaded unit” (eighth, quarter, eighth)

- Identifying minor
 - Beginning on 1a or 6th of major
 - Compositional conventions
 - Use of repetition, sequences
- Relative major/Relative minor
 - Key signatures look the same
- Parallel major/Parallel minor
- Commonly used church modes
 - Dorian (d) – aeolian/natural minor/ raised 6th
 - Lydian (f) – ionian/major with raised 4th
 - Mixolydian (g) – ionian/major with lowered 7th

● Literature

- Wherever possible, select beautiful settings of meaningful texts
- Select the finest within your grasp
- Stretch your singers and yourself
- Prepare your music fully
- Don't shy away from ethnic music
- Utilize your students, community, foreign language faculty
- Consider “pairing” concert selections
- Consider personalizing “lyrics”

Oh yeah,
MOVEMENT!

Peter~isms

3. Better to keep your mouth closed and be thought a fool, than to open it, and remove all doubt

Peter~isms

13. Fill the room!

Peter~isms

19. If you don't have the key(s), you can't open the doors.

Peter~isms

31. Never strive for perfection, but
always strive for excellence –

Dr. Larry Marsh, Linfield College

Peter~isms

32. Program for your singers and yourself, not for your adjudicators.

Peter~isms

33. Remind your face that, “you love to sing”!

Peter~isms

38. Stand from the waist up.

Peter~isms

41. Syncopation can be (snap) fun!
(sung to the tune of, “London Bridge is
Falling Down”)

Peter~isms

44. The less you do (as conductor)
the better THEY look! (the singers)

Peter~isms

45. The most difficult thing to do in a choir class is absolutely nothing.

Peter~isms

48. When you feel like talking (as the educator), SING!

Peter~isms

49. When you go to church, you don't sit in the, "pooh"...it's:
pew...likewise: dew, few, mew, new, tune and view

Peter~isms

17. If I thought the best singing of your life was going to occur in this room, I'd resign tomorrow!