

ChorTeach Index Categorization

Vol 1, Issue 1, through Vol 16, Issue 1

**Last updated 2/28/24*

List of Categories

1. Adolescent (Junior High/Middle School/High School)
*Boy Choir/Male Singer (See: TTBB)
2. Church Choir
3. Classroom & Curriculum
4. Community Choir
5. Conductor Self-Improvement
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7. SSAA Singer
*High School (See: Adolescent)
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9. Jazz
*Junior High/Middle School/High School (See: Adolescent)
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16. Technology
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*Women's Choir (See: SSAA Singer)
18. Ask a Conductor
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1. Adolescent (Junior High/Middle School/High School Choirs)

“Addressing Racial and Cultural Challenges in Choirs” by Baruch Whitehead; Vol 13, Issue 3; Spring 2021

Should white students sing stories about black oppression? This article details a collaboration between a predominantly white high school choir and a multiracial, intergenerational choir of college and community singers.

“Adolescent Identity Formation and the Singing Voice” by Nana Wolfe; Vol 4. Issue 3, Spring 2012

This article talks about how choral conductors can help guide adolescents through the process of becoming emerging adults, specifically regarding the vocal change, in a healthy way.

“Adolescent Voice Change: Frustration or Celebration” by Sandra Stegman and Tracey Nycz; Vol 8. Issue 2, Winter 2016

Adolescence is an important time of vocal exploration and accomplishment for young singers. This article offers methods grounded in research and a real-world classroom for accepting and celebrating the changing voice.

“Beyond the ‘Bass-ics’ in Junior High/Middle School Music Programs” by Sarah Marohl; Vol 1. Issue 4, Spring 2009

This article encourages collaboration between the entire music department—yes, including the band director!—to foster a unique learning environment for students and teachers.

“Choosing Music for Those Awkward, Difficult, yet Beautiful People: Middle School Singers” by Elizabeth Batey; Vol 7. Issue 2, Winter 2015

This article contains a compilation of music for middle school singers of all vocal ranges.

“Composing for Middle and High School Choirs: A Conversation with Laura Farnell and Reginal Wright” by Mark Rohwer; Vol 15, Issue 1; Fall 2022

This article is an interview with two Texas-based choral composers, Laura Farnell and Reginal Wright, on composing music for middle school and high school choirs.

“Critical Thinking in Rehearsals” by Gregory LeFils Jr; Vol 13, Issue 1, Fall 2020

Learn skills of critical thinking and teaching for transfer during rehearsals to reap the benefits of a fast learning process and stronger choral program.

“Developing Appropriate Teacher-Student Relationships” by Micah Bland; Vol 12. Issue 3, Spring 2020

Find suggestions for making appropriate connections between teachers and students. Topics discussed include boundaries, conversation, interactions, and developing positive relationships.

“Developing Tone Quality in Middle and High School Choral Ensembles” by Karen Willie; Vol 5. Issue 1, Fall 2012

The author of this article offers ideas and techniques to attempt in the choral classroom for addressing healthy tone production.

“Dynamic (and Effective) Teaching with Junior High/Middle School Singers” by Karen Sims; Vol 3. Issue 1, Fall 2010

This article contains a list of tips for effective and dynamic teaching at the junior high/middle school level.

“End-of-the-Year Activities in the Music Classroom” by Andrew Bruhn; Vol 9. Issue 3, Spring 2017.

In this article the author offers ideas for keeping the end of the school year positive and successful for middle and high school students, keeping things fun while remaining musically focused.

“Exercises for Head Voice Exploration and Development for Junior High/Middle School and High School Boys” by Terry J. Barham; Vol 5. Issue 2, Winter 2013

The author of this article shares exercises for the strengthening and healthy development of the boy’s head voice.

“How to Handle Middle School Choir Students Who Talk Too Much” by Michael Murphy; Vol 8. Issue 2, Winter 2016

Middle school choir students often talk too much, taking up valuable rehearsal time. What can you do? Consider learning to give nonverbal instructions using the tips provided in this article.

“Ideas and Activities Which Generate Success in Middle and Junior High School Choir Programs” by Arkansas Middle and Junior High School Choral Directors; Vol 5. Issue 2, Winter 2013

This article presents a list of ideas and activities for finding success in middle school/junior high programs such as audition preparation, motivation, and reflection.

“Incorporating Mindfulness into the Choral Rehearsal” by Lawrence E. Fisher; Vol 12. Issue 1, Fall 2019

Create mindfulness and focus in your choral rehearsals by using a centering exercise with students that asks them to pay attention to breath and deep breathing. The goal is to help students who may be struggling with finding hope and peace in their daily lives.

“Knowing the Score: Where Pedagogy and Classroom Management Meet the Unexpected” by Thomas Blue; Vol 12. Issue 4, Summer 2020

This article will share an approach to score study focusing on vocal and choral pedagogy for adolescent singers and how this focus can improve one’s planning, teaching, and performance.

“Literacy Achievement and the Impact of Choral Music Participation” by Keith Hearnberger; Vol 5. Issue 4, Summer 2013

The author of this article discusses the concept of a connection between music and literacy and the relationship between participation in choral music and academic achievement.

“Male Chorus: Recruit, Maintain, and Develop” by Mark Cotter; Vol 3. Issue 3, Spring 2011
The author of this article shares ideas and activities for working with male singers, specifically at the high school level.

“Middle School Choir is Group Therapy” by Ailisa Newhall; Vol 12. Issue 2, Winter 2020
The author of this short article shares how they used music as an emotional outlet after the unexpected death of a student.

“Mission Impossible? or How Best to Recruit and Retain Junior High Male Chorus Members” by Suzanne Callahan; Vol 8. Issue 2, Winter 2016
This article offers tips and tricks the author has used for successful recruiting and retaining of junior high male chorus members.

“Part Singing in Middle School—It Can be Done!” by Rachel Green; Vol 2. Issue 2, Winter 2010
This article is for those who are looking for resources to help their middle school singers learn to sing in parts.

“Preparation, Practice, Performance, and Pondering: A Different Approach to Score Preparation” by Thomas Blue; Vol 9, Issue 2, Winter 2017
Discover teaching and rehearsal strategies based on the author’s experiences inside and outside of the choral classroom.

“Preparing High School Musicals: A Beginning” by Jacob Narverud; Vol 4. Issue 1, Fall 2011
This article provides suggestions for directing a high school musical, including choosing the show, budgeting, staffing, auditions, and more. A resource list is included.

“Preparing High School Singers for College/University Auditions” by MB Krueger; Vol 4. Issue 1, Fall 2011
This article provides suggestions for preparing high school singers for auditions at the college/university levels. Topics covered include what to expect at an audition, choosing repertoire, and accompanists.

“Recruiting and Retention Ideas for Beginning High School Choral Directors” by Lorraine Lynch; Vol 12. Issue 2, Winter 2020
An outline for recruiting and retention in high school choral programs.

“Recruiting Boys into Choirs—Techniques that Work” by Jonathan Krinke; Vol 6. Issue 4, Summer 2014
This article focuses on four target groups—MS boys, HS boys currently in choir, HS boys not currently in choir, and HS boys who have sung in the past but are not now singing—and provides practical recruiting suggestions and encouragement for recruitment.

“Recruiting Singers With No Feeder Program? Yes, You Can” by Dana Alexander; Vol 3. Issue 4, Summer 2011

The author of this article shares ideas for recruiting at the high school level even though there are no “feeder” schools.

“Reconsidering the Use of Metaphor in Choral Rehearsals” by Brian Winnie; Vol 13, Issue 1, Fall 2020

Reconsider the phrases, imagery, and metaphor used during rehearsals to provide singers with specific feedback on what they are doing well and what they need to improve.

“Selecting, Adapting, Writing, and Publishing Music for the Middle School Choir” by Emily Crocker; Vol 12. Issue 2, Winter 2020

This article is adapted from the author’s session at the 2019 ACDA National Conference on four areas of music selection: selecting, adapting, writing, and publishing.

“Serenity for the Middle School Choir Director” by Kathy Lollar; Vol 1. Issue 4, Summer 2009
The author of this article shares how she learned to cultivate serenity when dealing with middle school choir singers.

“Stuck in the Middle—Finding Multicultural Repertoire for Middle School Choirs” by Kurt McKee; Vol 6. Issue 4, Summer 2014

This article shares tips for how to find literature that not only teaches musical skills and concepts but also represents a variety of cultures. Also included is a list of “tried and true” repertoire.

“Teaching Sight-Singing to Middle School Students—You Can Do It” by Dale Duncan; Vol 6. Issue 2, Winter 2014

The author of this article shares tips for success at the middle school level while teaching sight-singing.

“Teaching Strategies for the Out-of-Balance Ensemble” by Gregory W. LeFils Jr.; Vol 15, Issue 2; Winter 2023

The article will offer strategies to help choral educators to engage and retain middle school singers.

“The Challenge of Blending the Voices within Each Section of Your Choir—It Can Be Done!” by Terry J. Barham; Vol 12. Issue 3, Spring 2020

This article is for those who struggle with getting different voices to blend while rehearsing and performing using a method shared at a workshop by Weston Noble.

“The Changing Voice—A Project for General Music in Middle Schools” by Sara Gaines; Vol 4. Issue 4, Summer 2012

This article provides tips for including a unit on the vocal mechanism in general music classes to help singers understand what is happening in their own voices and those of their peers.

“The Mother/Daughter Choir: A Unique Experience for Your High School Women’s Choir” by Carol Earnhardt; Vol 6. Issue 3, Spring 2014

Find repertoire examples and tips for successful implementation of activities specific to your women's choir in this article.

“The Space Between: Developing the Intermediate Tenor/Bass Singer” by John McDonald; Vol 14, Issue 4; Summer 2022

The author shares advice for working with upper middle school or early high school singers who are undergoing a voice shift related to puberty.

“Thinking about an International Tour? Plan Ahead!” By Terry Barham; Vol 10. Issue 1, Fall 2017.

Find solid, easy-to-implement advice for international choir tour travel in this helpful article, including tips for bookkeeping, fund-raising projects, scheduling, and more.

“Three Reasons Why Brain Research Should Guide Arts Scheduling in Schools” by Anthony Mazzocchi; Vol 10. Issue 1, Fall 2017.

This article discusses three specific things choral music provides students in their school day.

“Where the Wild Things Are: Teaching Middle School Boys' Choirs” by Mary Jane Phillips; Vol 1. Issue 1, Fall 2008

The author of this article offers tips from her own experience as a female teaching middle school boys.

“Who's Afraid of Renaissance Music? No-Fear Solutions for Middle and Senior High Choirs” by Michael Zemek; Vol 4. Issue 3, Spring 2012

This article invites conductors to program Renaissance music with their choirs and offers suggestions for vocal range, notation, accompaniment, and more.

“Why Do They Sing? Students Speak Up” by Debbie Aurelis-Muir; Vol 8. Issue 4, Summer 2016

The author suggests that students do not join choir because of graduation requirements but for the experience. Eighty students were asked why they signed up for choir; a sample of the responses is included.

“Why Won't My Choir Sing?” by Dale Duncan; Vol 7. Issue 2, Winter 2015

This article shares five reasons why middle school singers won't sing and presents practical ideas to help work toward rehearsals full of enthusiastic middle school singers.

“Working with Honor/Festival Choirs: One Conductor's Perspective” by Terry J. Barham; Vol 3. Issue 4, Summer 2011

The author of this article shares suggestions for conducting honor and festival choirs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

2. Church Choir

“Church Choir Directors/Organists: Conducting Gesture and Active Listening in Rehearsals and Worship” by Jason Thomas; Vol 4. Issue 3, Spring 2012

This article focuses on conducting gesture and listening, and offers suggestions for ways to improve while growing your church choir as singers and musicians.

“Church Musicians and Inclusive Language: A Beginning” by Andy Call; Vol 3. Issue 2, Winter 2011

The author of this article suggests reasons to consider gender-inclusive language in the hymns we sing.

“Coping with Stress in the Music Ministry” by Paul A. Aitken; Vol 5. Issue 3, Spring 2013

This article shares ideas for how to cope with the stress many of us face as a church musician.

“Creating and Sustaining Choral Programs in Today’s Churches” by Greg Zielke; Vol 2. Issue 3, Spring 2010

This article is a “thank you” to those who lead a church choir and an encouragement for those who want to consider starting one.

“Creativity in Music and Worship Planning: Be Not Afraid” by James Seay; Vol 8. Issue 2, Winter 2016

This article presents a creative idea for a worship series that employs musical theater to highlight topics the pastor unpacks in worship.

“Global Music in Christian Worship” by Jeff Clouser; Vol 9. Issue 1, Fall 2016

This article suggests that including global music in worship services is one way to learn how people all over the world worship God and provides suggestions for repertoire, style, and songbooks from around the world.

“Preparing for Success with the Adult Choirs at Your Church” by Aaron Jackson; Vol 9. Issue 4, Summer 2017.

Learn keys to being professional, productive, and proficient as the conductor of an adult choir with the tips shared in this article, including a helpful list of recommended resources.

“Singing in a Choir—Less Stress and an Enlarged Sense of Community” by Loraine Brugh; Vol 9. Issue 1, Fall 2016

The author of this article shares the results of an informal survey on communal singing that she conducted with her thirty-member ensemble, Kantorei, the chapel choir at Valparaiso University.

“Singing in a Chorus—Do’s and Don’ts for Church or Community Chorus Members” by Stephanie A. Henry; Vol 9. Issue 3, Spring 2017

This short article provides practical suggestions for singers who wish to be successful in their choirs.

“Starting a Youth Choir in Your Church” by Michael Zemek; Vol 7. Issue 1, Fall 2014

This article discusses the “unique issues surrounding adolescents singing in worship settings” and offers strategies for forming the choir, choosing music, organization, and leadership.

“Using Tuning Forks to Empower Your Church Choir—Excellence at the Basics” by Julie Ford; Vol 4. Issue 1, Fall 2011

This article talks about how to pursue and achieve well-tuned performances on a regular basis using a tuning fork.

“What Are Your Church Choir Members Thinking?” by Diane Hires; Vol 6. Issue 2, Winter 2014

This article offers a plan for how to shape musical offerings by asking for constructive feedback from choir members and the congregation. A list of sample questions is provided.

“Worship Music Wars Can and Should Be Avoided” by David K. Lamb; Vol 5. Issue 2, Winter 2013

This article talks about music in a worship service and how to handle the difficulties that can arise when the opinions and personal preferences of what and how to sing is different within the choir.

“‘Choir Lite’—Less Time, Just as Fulfilling” by Lee G. Barrow; Vol 1. Issue 2, Winter 2009

This article explains how to encourage participation in your church choir with a “choir lite” approach—a commitment of six weeks for new members that will lead to more singers on a long-term basis.

“It is Time for Sowing! Planting and Growing Your Musical Garden” by Bryan Taylor; Vol 1. Issue 4, Summer 2009

Making exciting music takes planning, prayer, and proper skill. This article lists musical “seeds” that will help you reap a crop of musical fruit with your church choir.

3. Classroom & Curriculum

“A Broader View of Today’s Choral Curriculum in Today’s World” by Alan J. Gumm; Vol 3. Issue 2, Winter 2011

This article offers ideas about how the structuring of a secondary choral curriculum can be adapted to fit any choral director’s situation.

“A Cognitive Crescendo—How Music Affects the Brain” by Angela Hampton; Vol 2. Issue 1, Fall 2009

This article offers findings in the area of brain research as it relates to how the brain reacts to music and how musicians of all ages benefit from participating in musical activities.

“A Community Divided: Gendered Discourse in the Ensemble Classroom” by Eric Rubinstein; Vol 11. Issue 2, Winter 2019

The author of this article suggests that diversity in education should include more gender discourse and discusses repertoire, ensemble structure, and curriculum as two areas we can improve.

“A New/Old Look at Discipline and Classroom Management for Teachers” by Glen T. Miller; Vol 2. Issue 2, Winter 2010

This article examines practices in handling discipline with children in the classroom from the book *Time to Teach*.

“A Successful Approach to Making Music Come Alive: Imagery in the Choral Classroom” by Sean J. M. Newman; Vol 8, Issue 4, Summer 2016

This article discusses the use of imagery as an approach to teaching that goes beyond just a focus on the notes and rhythms to explore imagery as a “useful and powerful tool, particularly for secondary students.”

“A Systematic Approach to the Placement of Singers in Large Choirs” by Brian Lanier; Vol 3. Issue 1, Fall 2010

This article suggests that placement is one of the most important factors for successful choral performances and offers suggestions for determining singer distribution, specifically for larger choirs.

“Adolescent Voice Change: Frustration or Celebration” by Sandra Stegman and Tracey Nycz; Vol 8. Issue 2, Winter 2016

This article offers methods grounded in research and a real-world classroom for accepting and celebrating the changing voice.

“An Ear for an Eye—Learning from a Blind Conducting Student” by Ian Loeppky; Vol 2. Issue 2, Winter 2010

Proving that “music is first and foremost an auditory experience,” this article explores what happened when the author taught conducting to a blind student.

“An Unconventional Approach to the Choral Music Classroom” by Odell Zeigler; Vol 14, Issue 3; Spring 2022

The author provides potential challenges for teaching in an urban choral program, and details his “unconventional approaches” to addressing music literacy, creative programming, assessment, and more.

“Approaching Education in an Urban Choral Classroom: A Discussion with Dr. G. Preston Wilson” by Libby Gopal; Vol 14, Issue 3, Spring 2022

G. Preston Wilson answers questions related recurring issues that face a new choral director in an urban setting, possible solutions for navigating common issues, and more.

“Assessment in the Choral Classroom—New Options Using Technology” by Trisha Scheidies; Vol 5. Issue 3, Spring 2013

The author of this article explores ways to administer assessments based on RISE requirements and a new district-wide rubric.

“Battling the October Blues: Stimulus Variation in Rehearsals” by Erin Colwitz; Vol 6. Issue 4, Summer 2014

This article offers a list of ways you can continue to be the best teacher/conductor you can be while also motivating your students.

“Beg, Borrow, and Steal: A Survival Guide for the Rural Choral Teacher” by Elizabeth Batey; Vol 8. Issue 1, Fall 2015

The author of this article shares tips for professional development, networking, fundraising, and more that have garnered success in a rural classroom.

“Beyond the ‘Bass-ics’ in Junior High/Middle School Music Programs” by Sarah Marohl; Vol 1. Issue 4, Spring 2009

This article encourages collaboration between the entire music department—yes, including the band director!—to foster a unique learning environment for students and teachers.

“Building an Ensemble of Growth” by Trevor Tran; Vol 16, Issue 1; Winter 2024

This author shares steps toward facilitating an ensemble where students develop a greater growth mindset.

“Can We Really Sing Religious Music?” by James Benjamin Kinchen, Jr; Vol 10. Issue 1, Fall 2017.

This article discusses guidelines for choosing music with both sacred and secular texts for use in the public school system. A list of resources for further reading is included.

“Challenge Your Singers and They Challenge Each Other” by Travis Rogers; Vol 5. Issue 4, Summer 2013

The author of this article shares a rehearsal process he used with his choirs to increase focus and a healthy attitude of competition as it relates to improving their singing abilities.

“Choir Member Placement and Its Acoustic Effects” by Margaret M. Woods; Vol 7. Issue 4, Summer 2015

This article offers suggestions for spacing and formation and provides practical tips for implementation in the rehearsal.

“Choral Pedagogy in the 21st Century: Shared Control in College and University Choirs” by Micah Dalbey; Vol 3. Issue 3, Spring 2011

This article discusses student-led learning and suggests that it is important to create a proper balance between a conductor who has control of the classroom and a student who has control of his or her learning.

“Communicating with Parents—Help for Music Teachers” by Susan Dill; Vol 7. Issue 2, Winter 2015

This article offers practical communication strategies to help choir directors initiate and foster constructive communication with parents. A sample handbook and strategies for conflict resolution are included.

“Creating an Inclusive and Safe Choir Room” by Christopher Larson; Vol 6. Issue 4, Summer 2014

This article lists seven steps to take toward making music rehearsals, classroom spaces, and performances a safe place for all students “to sing, to thrive, and to belong.”

“Creative Music Making with Technology in the Choral Classroom” by David Haas and Seth Pendergast; Vol 15, Issue 1; Fall 2022

The purpose of this article is to 1) examine how creative music making with DAWs (Digital Audio Workstations) support learning, and 2) explore practical DAW-based project examples.

“Cross-Curricular Instruction in the Choral Classroom” by Andrew Bruhn; Vol 8, Issue 4, Summer 2016

This article explores the fact that music education is innately cross-curricular. A general outline of the author’s approach to teaching a foreign language work is included.

“Democratic Approaches for the Choral Ensemble: Repertoire Choice and Rehearsal Design” by Robert C. Jordan; Vol 14, Issue 2; Winter 2022

This article shares one teacher’s approach toward encouraging the development of musically independent students who engage collaboratively through dialogue, cooperation, democratic practice, critical thinking, and problem solving.

“Developing Tone Quality in Middle and High School Choral Ensembles” by Karen Willie; Vol 5. Issue 1, Fall 2012

The author of this article offers ideas and techniques to attempt in the choral classroom for addressing healthy tone production.

“Dynamic (and Effective) Teaching with Junior High/Middle School Singers” by Karen Sims; Vol 3. Issue 1, Fall 2010

This article contains a list of tips for effective and dynamic teaching at the junior high/middle school level.

“Emerging (Student) Teachers Grow and Excel: Planting, Watering, Harvesting in the Real World” by Robby Shellard and Jeremy Little; Vol 6. Issue 1, Fall 2013

This article explores how to spot challenges when teaching students new music and constructively plan for overcoming them so that choral conductors can use rehearsals more effectively.

“End-of-the-Year Activities in the Music Classroom” by Andrew Bruhn; Vol 9. Issue 3, Spring 2017.

In this article the author offers ideas for keeping the end of the school year positive and successful for middle and high school students, keeping things fun while remaining musically focused.

“Evil or Essential? The Pros and Cons of Social Networking for Music Teachers” by Penny Carmack; Vol 4. Issue 4, Summer 2012

This article discusses the rising influence of social networking and the pros and cons of music teachers getting involved.

“Extraordinary Elementary Singing on a Shoestring Budget” by Christy Elsner; Vol 3. Issue 4, Summer 2011

This article is for directors in elementary music classrooms who are interested in transforming and rejuvenating their singers at little to no cost.

“Facebook, Email and Twitter: How Tweet It Is!” by Joelle Norris; Vol 3. Issue 1, Fall 2010

This article offers tips for more effective and organized communication between students, parents, and teachers using the tools of email, websites, and social media.

“First Things First in Early Choir Rehearsals: Classroom Procedures that Get Results” by Jason Sickel; Vol 3. Issue 2, Winter 2011

This article lists proactive questions to ask yourself before the first day of rehearsal to facilitate a smoother experience for you and your students.

“Guiding Music Interns: What it Entails for Cooperating Teachers” by Teresa Rhyne; Vol 7. Issue 4, Summer 2015

This article offers tips for establishing a harmonious relationship with your intern.

“He’s Not Finished with Me Yet—The Importance of Moving Forward as a Music Educator” by Peri Goodman; Vol 8. Issue 2, Winter 2016

This article provides inspiration for stepping outside our comfort zones and seeking out meaningful experiences that will positively impact our choral classrooms.

“Healing Our Singers, Healing Ourselves—Social and Emotional Learning in Choir” by Lindsey Blackhurst; Vol 13, Issue 2, Winter 2021

This article discusses social and emotional learning and the student benefits, encouraging teachers to cultivate SEL skills inherent in choral singing more intentionally.

“How About a 5-5-5 Plan? Five Songs, Five Weeks, Five Concerts!” by Deborah Fristad; Vol 4. Issue 3, Spring 2012

The author of this article shares how she was able to teach her choir a large amount of music in a limited time using the “5-5-5 Plan”—five songs in five weeks for five concerts.

“How to Handle Middle School Choir Students Who Talk Too Much” by Michael Murphy; Vol 8. Issue 2, Winter 2016

Middle school choir students often talk too much, taking up valuable rehearsal time. What can you do? Consider learning to give nonverbal instructions using the tips provided in this article.

“Hymns: A New/Old Resource for Teaching Choral Music” by Jody Blake; Vol 9, Issue 2, Winter 2017

This article provides practical strategies and suggestions for integrating hymns into the choral music curriculum.

“Ideas and Activities Which Generate Success in Middle and Junior High School Choir Programs” by Arkansas Middle and Junior High School Choral Directors; Vol 5. Issue 2, Winter 2013

This article presents a list of ideas and activities for finding success in middle school/junior high programs such as audition preparation, motivation, and reflection.

“Inclusion of Special Needs Students in Choirs” by Vicki Baker; Vol 1. Issue 4, Summer 2009
The author of this article interviewed a conductor who had two special needs children in her middle school beginning treble choir and discussed her views about special needs singers.

“IPA—It’s Not Just for Voice Studios Anymore” by Colin Brown; Vol 5. Issue 4, Summer 2013
This article is a crash-course in IPA, complete with a repertoire list, suggested resources, and more.

“iPads in the Choral Classroom” by Barbara Retzko; Vol 6. Issue 3, Spring 2014
Learn about ATTENDANCE2: a new app for the iPad that will save you time and make keeping track of attendance, arrival time, and absence easier for you and your students.

“It’s Not All About Me!” by Jeff Rice; Vol 4. Issue 4, Summer 2012
This article suggests that it is good to allow students to make some decisions in the rehearsal room and provides ideas for making this part of the instruction process.

“Just Intonation” by Paul French; Vol 8. Issue 3, Spring 2016
Learn what the phrase “just intonation” means and how to apply it to your teaching. This explanation is based on a lecture-demonstration the author attended featuring Don Brinegar.

“Knowing the Score: Where Pedagogy and Classroom Management Meet the Unexpected” by Thomas Blue; Vol 12. Issue 4, Summer 2020
This article will share an approach to score study focusing on vocal and choral pedagogy for adolescent singers and how this focus can improve one’s planning, teaching, and performance.

“Literacy Achievement and the Impact of Choral Music Participation” by Keith Hearnberger; Vol 5. Issue 4, Summer 2013
The author of this article discusses the concept of a connection between music and literacy and the relationship between participation in choral music and academic achievement.

“Making Adjustments in Your Teaching to Fit the Teaching Environment” by Daniel Black; Vol 6. Issue 1, Fall 2013
The author of this article shares themes that worked with his students to guide them to the next level in their singing.

“Making the Connection Between Music and Text” by Sandy Hinkley; Vol 8. Issue 3, Spring 2016

This article provides teaching strategies you can utilize for helping singers at all levels with music and literacy. A list of suggested resources is included.

“Moving Toward More Progressive Choral Music Teacher Education Programs” by Jeffrey A. Murdock; Vol 9. Issue 3, Spring 2017

The author of this article provides a sample course of study for choral music educators that teaches musicianship and builds on teaching practices that will enhance future success of course graduates.

“New Bridges to Cross: Ideas to Motivate and Stimulate Multicultural Emphasis in the Choral Classroom” by Sarah Ross; Vol 1. Issue 2, Winter 2009

This article offers creative, simple ideas about how to incorporate multicultural music into the classroom.

“Part Singing in Middle School—It Can be Done!” by Rachel Green; Vol 2. Issue 2, Winter 2010

This article is for those who are looking for resources to help their middle school singers learn to sing in parts.

“Planning Ahead: Five Considerations for Future Choral Music Classrooms” by Andrew Lusher; Vol 12. Issue 4, Summer 2020

How have you adjusted to our new normal of virtual choir rehearsals? The author of this article offers practical tips for classrooms as we consider what school might look like this coming semester.

“Putting the Fun in Fundamentals for Your Choir” by Laura Farnell; Vol 7. Issue 2, Winter 2015
This article presents creative ways to make learning music interesting and fun for your students.

“Quotes and Sayings for Teaching Lessons About Music and Life” by Terry J. Barham; Vol 5. Issue 4, Summer 2013

The author of this article shares from his collection of quotes that can be used with choirs to inspire and engage.

“Reading and Singing—Elementary Teachers, Take Note” by Debra Johnson; Vol 9. Issue 4, Summer 2017.

The author of this article shares some of her favorite vocal exploration books for elementary-aged singers.

“Relationships: Their Power and Importance” by Jason Sickel; Vol 10. Issue 1, Fall 2017.

The author of this article, named 2017 Kansas Teacher of the Year, shares advice for how to build strong and lasting relationships with students and colleagues, including tools, ideas, and activities for the classroom.

“Remixing the Algorithm: TikTok for Choirs” by Colleen McNickle; Vol 15, Issue 4; Summer 2023

The author of this article shares tip and strategies for utilizing the TikTok app for positive use in the choral classroom. The article includes a list of video ideas, examples for prompts, and some answers to FAQs.

“Resisting the Tyranny of the Barline: Teaching Metric Stress and “Meter” in Renaissance Polyphony” by Stephen Kingsbury; Vol 16, Issue 1; Winter 2024

This article will begin to explain the complexity of Renaissance rhythmic practice and suggests and efficient and effective means of teaching to enliven performances of this music.

“Singing Avant-Garde Compositions with Youth Choirs? Yes!” by Nancy Curry; Vol 3. Issue 3, Spring 2011

This article offers several ideas for using avant-garde choral music to teach musical and vocal concepts. A repertoire and resource list is included.

“Software Apps for Choir Directors—Not Student” by Chris Clark; Vol 7. Issue 3, Spring 2015

This article provides a helpful list of seven apps for choir directors.

“Solfege for the Performance-Oriented Classroom” by Heather Christiansen; Vol 13, Issue 2, Winter 2021

The author offers practical ideas to upgrade activities you already do by adding a solfege twist.

“Spatial Disorders and Dyslexia in the Choral Classroom” by Jeffrey Kitson; Vol 4. Issue 3, Spring 2012

The author of this article shares two techniques that worked when she applied them to teaching a choral student who had dyslexia.

“Stronger When We Work Together” by Michael Jeffrey; Vol 11. Issue 3, Spring 2019

Learn more about the benefits of collaboration from this author’s personal account with his own choirs.

“Teaching Culturally: Encounters with Immigrant Students” by Sarah J. Graham; Vol 10. Issue 4, Summer 2018

The author of this article offers suggestions for being culturally responsible while working with students from other cultures and ethnic traditions.

“Teaching Habits of Mind in Youth Choirs: Adapting *A Mind-set for Learning* to Enhance the Choral Experience” by Lindsey Blackhurst; Vol 10. Issue 2, Winter 2018.

This article discusses practical implementation to fostering a mind-set of learning within a choral ensemble.

“Teaching Healthy Singing in the Choral and Applied Studio Part One and Two” by Derrick L. Thompson; Vol 13, Issue 1, Fall 2020

This two-part article includes interviews with three choral and three applied voice pedagogues

with the goal of examine their approaches to teaching healthy singing in choral and applied studio settings.

“Teaching Rote with Rigor: Embedding Musical Concepts and Preparing for Music Literacy” by Craig Hurley and Rebecca L. Atkins; Vol 14, Issue 4; Summer 2022

“This article will present four instructional strategies to increase the rigor of rote teaching by introducing musical concepts such as form, lyric interpretation, and expression while furthering musical literacy.”

“Teaching Sight-Singing to Middle School Students—You Can Do It” by Dale Duncan; Vol 6. Issue 2, Winter 2014

The author of this article shares tips for success at the middle school level while teaching sight-singing.

“The Art of Teaching Music Literacy to Develop Independent Musicians” by Janel Huyett; Vol 14, Issue 4; Summer 2022

The author shares tips for learning music in a way that develops a “broader understanding of musical concepts and language.”

“The Brain and Music” by Larry Swingen; Vol 12. Issue 1, Fall 2019

This article explores how music and the brain relate, and the author offers practical suggestions for the classroom.

“The Changing Voice—A Project for General Music in Middle Schools” by Sara Gaines; Vol 4. Issue 4, Summer 2012

This article provides tips for including a unit on the vocal mechanism in general music classes to help singers understand what is happening in their own voices and those of their peers.

“The Complexity of Singing” by Gabriela Hristova; Vol 9, Issue 2, Winter 2017

The author of this article reflects on her years of training, teaching, and performing and shares ideas that she strives to communicate with her singers.

“The Missing Link: An Intermediate Step for Introducing New Music to Your Choir” by Bo Shirah and Micah Bland; Vol 11. Issue 4, Summer 2019

Add an intermediate step to the method of sight-reading that will allow singers to focus solely on pitch and become familiar with the melodic and harmonic content separately from rhythm and text.

“The Mother/Daughter Choir: A Unique Experience for Your High School Women’s Choir” by Carol Earnhardt; Vol 6. Issue 3, Spring 2014

Find repertoire examples and tips for successful implementation of activities specific to your women’s choir in this article.

“The Rising Tide of Music Literacy” by David Edmonds; Vol 9. Issue 4, Summer 2017.

Utilize sight-singing as a tool in your classroom that students can be excited about using the tips provided in this article. A list of works that work well with solfege practice is included.

“The Shy Non-Singer—Elementary Teachers, Take Note!” by Michele Hobizal; Vol 8. Issue 3, Spring 2016

This article offers practical activities and suggestions for vocal exploration that will turn even the shyest singer into one who auditions for next year’s school musical.

“Three Reasons Why Brain Research Should Guide Arts Scheduling in Schools” by Anthony Mazzocchi; Vol 10. Issue 1, Fall 2017.

This article discusses three specific things choral music provides students in their school day.

“To Jazz or Not to Jazz” by James McCullough; Vol 4. Issue 1, Fall 2011

The author of this article offers suggestions for directors who want to explore the jazz art form in their choral programs.

“Today is the First Day of the Rest of the Year” by Cliff Ganus; Vol 5. Issue 3, Spring 2013

The author of this article reminds us that a primary goal as choral conductors is musical excellence, and we can start today to inspire and help singers toward that goal.

“Transformative Collaborations with Other Choirs” by Thomas Lloyd; Vol 3. Issue 4, Summer 2011

This article explores why choral collaborations are important and offers suggestions for making collaborations successful.

“Translating Emotion to Expression: Five Strategies to Try” by Christopher Loftin; Vol 15, Issue 4; Summer 2023

This article breaks down vocal and visual expression into five principles that provide an opportunity for students to create expressive decisions in a healthy manner.

“Two Basics: Intonation and Reading Skills for Children's Choirs” by Sandra Mathias; Vol 2. Issue 4, Summer 2010

This article offers suggestions for two basics of teaching a children’s choir: intonation and reading skills.

“Using Social Media and Technology to Strengthen Your Choral Program—Gibbon’s The Silver Swan in the 21st Century” by Barbara Retzko; Vol 3. Issue 3, Spring 2011

The author of this article shares a classroom assignment that inspired and encouraged singers. A scoring rubric is provided.

“Using the National Standards for Choral Teaching” by James Fronczek; Vol 1. Issue 4, Summer 2009

This article examines the nine national standards and how they might be used in a rehearsal.

“Using Tuning Forks to Empower Your Church Choir—Excellence at the Basics” by Julie Ford; Vol 4. Issue 1, Fall 2011

This article talks about how to pursue and achieve well-tuned performances on a regular basis using a tuning fork.

“Voices in your Head: A Method for Teaching Audiation in the Secondary Choral Classroom” by Micah Bland; Vol 10. Issue 4, Summer 2018

The author suggests that audiation is a fundamental part of a student’s musical development. Vocal exercises, audiation in sight-singing, and potential challenges are all discussed.

“Warm-Ups, Repertoire, and Resources for Male Choirs” by Amy Hughley; Vol 1. Issue 4, Spring 2009

This article contains suggestions from middle school, high school, and collegiate male choir directors for reliable warm-up exercises, favorite spring repertoire, and resources for summer reading.

“What Do You Teach?... I Teach Kids!” by Katherine Kouns; Vol 3. Issue 2, Winter 2011

In this article, the author suggests that all teachers can be successful in the classroom, no matter the talent of their singers or how large or small their choirs.

“Where Have All the Altos Gone?” by Amy Allibon; Vol 2. Issue 1, Fall 2009

In this article, the author asks the question: “Where have all the altos gone?” and discusses why the goal of a choral conductor should be first and foremost to develop healthy singers.

“Where the Wild Things Are: Teaching Middle School Boys’ Choirs” by Mary Jane Phillips; Vol 1. Issue 1, Fall 2008

The author of this article offers tips from her own experience as a female teaching middle school boys.

“Why Do They Sing? Students Speak Up” by Debbie Aurelis-Muir; Vol 8. Issue 4, Summer 2016

The author suggests that students do not join choir because of graduation requirements but for the experience. Eighty students were asked why they signed up for choir; a sample of the responses is included.

“Why Every Conductor Should Teach Music Appreciation” by Daniel David Black; Vol 8. Issue 3, Spring 2016

This article lists three reasons why teaching music appreciation can be interesting to students while actually helping your own program to grow and thrive.

“Working with Honor/Festival Choirs: One Conductor’s Perspective” by Terry J. Barham; Vol 3. Issue 4, Summer 2011

The author of this article shares suggestions for conducting honor and festival choirs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

“World Music for Choirs: Benefits, Barriers, and Basic Pedagogy for Teachers” by Stefanie Cash; Vol 6. Issue 3, Spring 2014

This article examines the historical importance of world music, offers the benefits of exposing students to these works, and suggests several teaching approaches along with a list of resources for further study.

4. Community Choirs

“Addressing Racial and Cultural Challenges in Choirs” by Baruch Whitehead; Vol 13, Issue 3; Spring 2021

This article details a collaboration between a predominantly white high school choir and a multiracial, intergenerational choir of college and community singers.

“Community Choirs: Mission Impossible?” by Rick Bjella; Vol 3. Issue 4, Summer 2011

This article provides the basics for helping to mold your community choir’s mission for the coming season.

“Keeping the ‘Community’ in Community Choirs” by Susan Medley; Vol 7. Issue 4, Summer 2015

This article offers a list of eight principles to remember when conducting your community choir.

“Oakdale Prison Community Choir: A Person is a Person Through Other People” by Mary Cohen; Vol 3. Issue 1, Fall 2010

The author of this article shares her experience conducting the Oakdale Community Choir, a group comprising inmates from Oakdale Prison, and community members, students, and faculty from the University of Iowa.

“Preparing for the First Rehearsal: A Guide for Choral Conductors” by Timothy Mount; Vol 10. Issue 2, Winter 2018.

Careful planning and mindful techniques are the foundation of a productive rehearsal. The author of this article shares keys to efficient choral rehearsals, using Bach’s motet *Jesu, meine Freude*, BWV 227 as a sample guide.

“Sing, Sing, Sing with a Swing—Jazzing Up Community Choirs” by Stephanie Austin Leston; Vol 2. Issue 3, Spring 2010

This article shares resources and literature suggestions for working with the vocal jazz genre to find repertoire and methods appropriate for community choirs.

“Singing in a Chorus—Do’s and Don’ts for Church or Community Chorus Members” by Stephanie A. Henry; Vol 9. Issue 3, Spring 2017

This short article provides practical suggestions for singers who wish to be successful in their choirs.

“Stretching the Skills of Your Community Choir” by Michael Kemp; Vol 15, Issue 2; Winter 2023

This article is reprinted in part from Choral Journal and provides ideas for working with amateur singers in community choirs.

5. Conductor Self-Improvement

“A Conductor’s Greatest Untapped Resource” by William Hienz; Vol 11. Issue 2, Winter 2019
Watching other conductors can be a valuable component of learning the craft. The author of this article suggests three areas of instruction: knowledge of the score, baton technique, and stage development.

“A Curious Thing, This Recurring Dream...” by Howard Meharg; Vol 12. Issue 1, Fall 2019
The author of this short article shares how he can sometimes feel as though he is merely “faking it” when it comes to teaching and offers encouragement to anyone who struggles with similar feelings.

“An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure: Vocal Health Reminders for Music Educators, Conductors, and Singers” by Jason Paulk; Vol 7. Issue 2, Winter 2015
Learn about common vocal dysfunctions and strategies for avoidance in this article.

“Beg, Borrow, and Steal: A Survival Guide for the Rural Choral Teacher” by Elizabeth Batey; Vol 8. Issue 1, Fall 2015
The author of this article shares tips for professional development, networking, fundraising, and more that have garnered success in a rural classroom.

“Choral Zen: How a Healthy Attitude Makes a Better You and a Better Choral Universe” by Timothy Glasscock; Vol 8. Issue 1, Fall 2015
This article suggests that setting aside time to relax, reset, and center oneself can be the key to regaining focus and offers ways to accomplish it.

“Church Choir Directors/Organists: Conducting Gesture and Active Listening in Rehearsals and Worship” by Jason Thomas; Vol 4. Issue 3, Spring 2012
This article focuses on two dilemmas—conducting gesture and listening—and offers suggestions for ways to improve while growing your church choir as singers and musicians.

“Coping with Stress in the Music Ministry” by Paul A. Aitken; Vol 5. Issue 3, Spring 2013
This article shares ideas for how to cope with the stress many of us face as a church musician.

“Cultural Awakening—An opportunity for Healing and Harmonizing” by Martha Coventry Graver; Vol 1. Issue 4, Summer 2009

This article discusses the complexities of culture in ourselves, our work, our lives, and our world.

“Evil or Essential? The Pros and Cons of Social Networking for Music Teachers” by Penny Carmack; Vol 4. Issue 4, Summer 2012

This article discusses the rising influence of social networking and the pros and cons of music teachers getting involved.

“Feeling the Burn? How to Ignite Your Passion as an Educator” by Joyce J. Click; Vol 15, Issue 2; Winter 2023

The author of this article shares a number of ways she combated burnout as a teacher of forty-four years. It also includes advice from ten career educators on “avoiding the burn.”

“Go and Shine! Part 1: Nine Strategies for Cultivating a Positive Mindset” by Elizabeth Weismehl; Vol 15, Issue 3; Spring 2023

This two-part article provides strategies for finding joy by focusing on mindfulness and gratitude. Part one is for our own benefit. Part two is for use with singers.

“Guiding Music Interns: What it Entails for Cooperating Teachers” by Teresa Rhyne; Vol 7. Issue 4, Summer 2015

This article offers tips for establishing a harmonious relationship with your intern.

“Having a Vision: A Question of Sanity?” by Howard Meharg; Vol 7. Issue 1, Fall 2014

This article suggests that “where there is no vision, the performing group perishes.” Having a vision is necessary if we want to enjoy our teaching careers and positively impact lives.

“He’s Not Finished with Me Yet—The Importance of Moving Forward as a Music Educator” by Peri Goodman; Vol 8. Issue 2, Winter 2016

This article provides inspiration for stepping outside our comfort zones and seeking out meaningful experiences that will positively impact our choral classrooms.

“It’s Not All About Me!” by Jeff Rice; Vol 4. Issue 4, Summer 2012

This article suggests that it is good to allow students to make some decisions in the rehearsal room and provides ideas for making this part of the instruction process.

“Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing” by Jeff Anderson; Vol 2. Issue 1, Fall 2009

The author of this article answers the question: after a career in music education, what would he do differently if given another opportunity?

“Key Concepts in Choral Singing” by Edith A. Copley; Vol 4. Issue 4, Summer 2012

The author of this article shares a list of key choral concepts that she compiled throughout the course of her teaching career.

“Lifelong Learning and Shades of Gray” by William Dabback; Vol 2. Issue 3, Spring 2010

This article considers the place of music beyond what happens in school programs and explores research on this topic.

“Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Reflection and Personal Growth” by Phil Hesterman; Vol 3. Issue 1, Fall 2010

This article focuses on the importance of reflective programming at the end of the year to evaluate the successes and failures and can help us learn how to improve for the following semester.

“Moving Toward More Progressive Choral Music Teacher Education Programs” by Jeffrey A. Murdock; Vol 9. Issue 3, Spring 2017

The author of this article provides a sample course of study for choral music educators of the twenty-first century that teaches musicianship and builds on teaching practices that will enhance future success of course graduates.

“Music is Best when Surrounded by Rest: Choral Conductor Suggestions for Conductor Wellness” by Jerome Upton; Vol 10. Issue 4, Summer 2018

Several choral conductors share what things they do at home to stay rested and healthy. Nine sections focused on self-care are presented.

“Questions from the Choral Conscience” by Steven Zopfi; Vol 4. Issue 2, Winter 2012

This article posits questions for conductors to consider about why we do what we do and how we think about what we do.

“Quotes and Sayings for Teaching Lessons About Music and Life” by Terry J. Barham; Vol 5. Issue 4, Summer 2013

The author of this article shares from his collection of quotes that can be used with choirs to inspire and engage.

“Reflections on the Conductor’s Role” by Joseph Flummerfelt; Vol 5. Issue 2, Winter 2013

This article demonstrates why and how to approach music with a composer-centered instead of a conductor-centered mind-set.

“Relationships: Their Power and Importance” by Jason Sickel; Vol 10. Issue 1, Fall 2017.

The 2017 Kansas Teacher of the Year shares advice for how to build strong and lasting relationships with students and colleagues, including tools, ideas, and activities for the classroom.

“Revisiting Your Personal Philosophy of Music Education” by Brian C. Murray; Vol 16, Issue 1; Winter 2024

In this article, the author suggests that creating a personal philosophy of music education will establish a foundation and impetus behind their decisions. This article is reprinted from Choral Journal 2016, and the author has added an updated introduction.

“Ronald Staheli: Exemplary Music Evaluator” by David Williams; Vol 9. Issue 1, Fall 2016
This article demonstrates how retired director Ronald Staheli encourages himself and choir members to self-evaluate in order to facilitate improvement as musicians and life in general.

“Sabbath Rest for Choral Directors” by Jeffrey Benson; Vol 7. Issue 1, Fall 2014
This article argues that personal days are necessary to stay fresh and recommends activities, both music- and non-music-related, that offer a successful “Sabbath rest” from our oftentimes harried lives.

“Serenity for the Middle School Choir Director” by Kathy Lollar; Vol 1. Issue 4, Summer 2009
The author of this article shares how she learned to cultivate serenity when dealing with middle school choir singers.

“Singing Seniors” by Nicole Aldrich; Vol 11. Issue 4, Summer 2019
Learn tips, exercises, and encouragement for keeping older adult singers performing at a high level.

“Success and Youthful Choral Directors: Ten Suggestions” by Scott Buchanan; Vol 2. Issue 4, Summer 2010
This article offers ten suggestions to help young choral directors avoid pitfalls in their beginning years of teaching.

“Teacher Self-Preservation: Tips for Preserving Your Voice” by Robin Samlan and Jeremy N. Manternach; Vol 8. Issue 4, Summer 2016

The authors offer ideas for maintaining a healthy voice that go beyond traditional vocal hygiene recommendations. Some of these strategies refer to the speaking voice, while others refer to the singing voice.

“Ten Positive Things to Do for Yourself” by Jo Anne Stoddard; Vol 3. Issue 3, Spring 2011
This article provides a reminder to take care of yourself so that you can thrive during the school year, not just survive.

“The Benefits of Singing—Resources for Conductors” by Fern L. Burnett; Vol 9. Issue 1, Fall 2016
This article consists of specific sources available on the internet that are intended to help foster this discussion between the choir director and his or her singers.

“The P.A.S.S.I.O.N.A.T.E. Choral Educator’s Guide to Longevity and Happiness” by Derrick Fox; Vol 6. Issue 3, Spring 2014
This article is a reminder to develop a healthy balance between our work and home lives to rekindle your P.A.S.S.I.O.N.A.T.E. approach to music education.

“Vocal Health—My Journey” by Cathy Reitz; Vol 2. Issue 4, Summer 2010

The author of this article shares what she learned on her journey toward better vocal health.

“What Do You Teach?... I Teach Kids!” by Katherine Kouns; Vol 3. Issue 2, Winter 2011
In this article, the author suggests that all teachers can be successful in the classroom, no matter the talent of their singers or how large or small their choirs.

“When We Teachers Walk Through the Door—New Teachers, Take Note” by Nicole Lamartine; Vol 12. Issue 3, Spring 2020
In this practical article, the author shares preparations that put her in a productive and positive mindset before conducting and rehearsing.

“Why Every Conductor Should Teach Music Appreciation” by Daniel David Black; Vol 8. Issue 3, Spring 2016
This article lists three reasons why teaching music appreciation can be interesting to students while actually helping your own program to grow and thrive.

“Work and Wellness for Choral Conductors: Exercise Makes a Difference” by Stephen Sieck; Vol 7. Issue 3, Spring 2015
This article examines data of a survey on wellness for the choral conductor in order to determine what factors contribute to long-term job satisfaction.

“You Might Not be the Only One Suffering from a Voice Problem—Music Teachers and Vocal Health” by Mary Lynn Morrissey Doherty; Vol 1. Issue 4, Spring 2009
This article discusses what an active teacher should do to preserve his or her voice and keep kids singing.

“Finding Your Voice” by Gary Mabry; Vol 6. Issue 1, Fall 2013
This article examines the question: what keeps you from speaking and communicating your true voice?

“Unplanned Changes” by Linda Mitcheltree; Vol 6. Issue 1, Fall 2013.
This article discusses how to best adapt to unplanned changes in both the classroom and life and reflects on big changes that can seem overwhelming at first but ultimately get us to where we need to be.

6. Elementary Choirs

“Extraordinary Elementary Singing on a Shoestring Budget” by Christy Elsner; Vol 3. Issue 4, Summer 2011
This article is for directors in elementary music classrooms who are interested in transforming and rejuvenating their singers at little to no cost.

“Let Music Hug Your Soul Today—A Message to Elementary Music Teachers” by Karen Bryan; Vol 6. Issue 2, Winter 2014
The author of this article shares “huggable moments” from her career that will inspire you to consider important personal moments from your own career.

“Lifting Up the Littles: Highlighting Your Youngest Singers through Commissioned Works, Effective Rehearsal, and Performance Opportunities” by Jess Edelbrock; Vol 15, Issue 1; Fall 2022

The author of this article explores practical ideas for highlighting your youngest singers and setting them up for success.

“Looking Back, Teaching Forward: Using Folk Songs to Teach Culture, History, and Music in the Elementary Classroom” by David Row; Vol 7. Issue 3, Spring 2015

This article introduces the concept of using folk songs to teach difficult concepts and provides suggestions for activities that elementary music educators can try with singers.

“Reading and Singing—Elementary Teachers, Take Note” by Debra Johnson; Vol 9. Issue 4, Summer 2017.

Reading books and stories in your classroom can help elementary-aged singers explore their voices and singing. The author of this article shares some of her favorite vocal exploration books.

“Teaching Habits of Mind in Youth Choirs: Adapting *A Mind-set for Learning* to Enhance the Choral Experience” by Lindsey Blackhurst; Vol 10. Issue 2, Winter 2018.

This article discusses practical implementation to fostering a mind-set of learning within a choral ensemble.

“Ten Commandments for the Children’s Choir Director” by Henry Leck; Vol 11. Issue 3, Spring 2019

This article breaks down ten important elements of being a children’s choir director.

“The Shy Non-Singer—Elementary Teachers, Take Note!” by Michele Hobizal; Vol 8. Issue 3, Spring 2016

This article offers practical activities and suggestions for vocal exploration that will turn even the shyest singer into one who auditions for next year’s school musical.

“Two Basics: Intonation and Reading Skills for Children's Choirs” by Sandra Mathias; Vol 2. Issue 4, Summer 2010

This article offers suggestions for two basics of teaching a children’s choir: intonation and reading skills.

“Voices in your Head: A Method for Teaching Audiation in the Secondary Choral Classroom” by Micah Bland; Vol 10. Issue 4, Summer 2018

The author suggests that audiation is a fundamental part of a student’s musical development. Vocal exercises, audiation in sight-singing, and potential challenges are all discussed.

“Working with Honor/Festival Choirs: One Conductor’s Perspective” by Terry J. Barham; Vol 3. Issue 4, Summer 2011

The author of this article shares suggestions for conducting honor and festival choirs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

7. SSAA Singer

“Always a Bridesmaid, Never a Bride!” by Roberta Q. Jackson; Vol 2. Issue 3, Spring 2010

The author of this article gives reasons why the advanced mixed choir is often viewed as the most prestigious and offers suggestions for how we can prioritize the importance of the all-women’s or men’s choirs.

“From the Treble Choir to the Treble Choir to the Treble Choir!” by Amanda Sprague Hanzlik; Vol 10. Issue 2, Winter 2018.

The author of this article shares her personal reflection of her musical journey from joining the middle school treble choir as a young seventh-grader to later directing a middle school treble honor choir.

“Men’s and Women’s Choirs: How Different Are They?” by Amy Hughley; Vol 5. Issue 1, Fall 2012

The author of this article suggests that it is our duty to overcome the challenges of single-gender choirs to create beautiful choral music, but before we can do this we must understand the differences of men’s and women’s choirs.

“Singing Seniors” by Nicole Aldrich; Vol 11. Issue 4, Summer 2019.

Learn tips, exercises, and encouragement for keeping older adult singers performing at a high level.

“Sing Out Loud: Empowering Women’s Choirs” by Lindsay S. Pope; Vol 6. Issue 4, Summer 2014

This article suggests that the stigmas attached to women’s choirs can be minimized and even removed altogether through “appropriate language, wise programming, and healthy vocal development.”

“The Mother/Daughter Choir: A Unique Experience for Your High School Women’s Choir” by Carol Earnhardt; Vol 6. Issue 3, Spring 2014

Find repertoire examples and tips for successful implementation of activities specific to your women’s choir in this article.

8. Interviews/Personal Reflection

“A Delicate Balance—Caring for the Music and the Singers” by J. Dennis Morrissey; Vol. 13, Issue 3; Spring 2021

This is an interview article with twelve college/university choral conductors from Illinois answering questions about caring for the music and the singers, rehearsal balance, and more.

“Asking Facebook Colleagues What Enhances Choral Sound—A Pilot Study” by Derrick Thompson; Vol 11. Issue 2, Winter 2019

This article shares responses from a number of choral conductors when asked, “What do you consider important characteristics of a great-sounding choir?”

“Catching Up with VOCES8” by Patrick F. Casey; Vol 11. Issue 3, Spring 2019

VOCES8 co-founder Barnaby Smith discusses the early history of the ensemble, their approach to choral expression, and more.

“Composing for Middle and High School Choirs: A Conversation with Laura Farnell and Reginal Wright” by Mark Rohwer; Vol 15, Issue 1; Fall 2022

This article is an interview with two Texas-based choral composers, Laura Farnell and Reginal Wright, on composing music for middle school and high school choirs.

“Considering Choral Competition—Perspectives on Motivation” by David W. Langley and Shannon Jeffreys; Vol 9. Issue 3, Spring 2017

Three choral directors offer viewpoints on the topic of choral competition, discussing both benefits and negatives of attending adjudicated choral festivals and competitions.

“From the Treble Choir to the Treble Choir to the Treble Choir!” by Amanda Sprague Hanzlik; Vol 10. Issue 2, Winter 2018.

The author of this article shares her personal reflection of her musical journey from joining the middle school treble choir as a young seventh-grader to later directing a middle school treble honor choir.

“Getting Inside the Mind of the Composer” by Carl Ashley; Vol 11. Issue 4, Summer 2019

When approaching a composition, there are questions to consider to help a conductor get inside a composer’s mind. Learn more in this article.

“I Heart (Love) Sight Singing!” by Jane Vanderhoff; Vol 11. Issue 3, Spring 2019

The author of this article asked singers to write down their thoughts about sight singing and shares them in five main categories.

“It Starts with a Dream!” by William Bennett; Vol 12. Issue 4, Summer 2020

What do you dream for your choirs? For your students? This author shares his dreams and encourages us to dream big dreams and share them with our students so they can dream big too.

“Jo-Michael Scheibe: An Interview” by Sean Burton; Vol 6. Issue 3, Spring 2014

Past national ACDA president Jo-Michael Scheibe shares on topics such as selecting repertoire, up-and-coming composers, and his thoughts on where the choral arts are headed.

“Middle School Choir is Group Therapy” by Ailisa Newhall; Vol 12. Issue 2, Winter 2020
The author of this short article shares how they used music as an emotional outlet after the unexpected death of a student.

“Recruiting, Training, and Mentoring Choral Music Educators to Make a Difference: An Interview with Anton Armstrong and Lynn Brinckmeyer” by Kirk Aamot; Vol 7. Issue 1, Fall 2014
Anton Armstrong and Lynn Brinckmeyer discuss what they have learned through many years teaching and training singers of all ages.

“Rehearsing with Robert Shaw, Legendary Conductor, Meadow Brook, 1966” by Martin Kessler; Vol 12. Issue 3, Spring 2020
The author of this article offers “a taste of Shaw” in a rehearsal setting from his own firsthand experience.

“Ronald Staheli: Exemplary Music Evaluator” by David Williams; Vol 9. Issue 1, Fall 2016
This article demonstrates how retired director Ronald Staheli encourages himself and choir members to self-evaluate in order to facilitate improvement as musicians and life in general.

“Singing in a Choir—Less Stress and an Enlarged Sense of Community” by Loraine Brugh; Vol 9. Issue 1, Fall 2016
The author of this article shares the results of an informal survey on communal singing that she conducted with her thirty-member ensemble, Kantorei, the chapel choir at Valparaiso University.

“Singing Polyphony Today—Why Have All the Flowers Gone?” by Jameson Marvin; Vol 13, Issue 1, Fall 2020
The author offers an argument in favor of the performance of polyphony.

“Stronger When We Work Together” by Michael Jeffrey; Vol 11. Issue 3, Spring 2019
Learn more about the benefits of collaboration from this author’s personal account with his own choirs.

“Teaching Healthy Singing in the Choral and Applied Studio Part One and Two” by Derrick L. Thompson; Vol 13, Issue 1, Fall 2020
This two-part article includes interviews with three choral and three applied voice pedagogues with the goal of examine their approaches to teaching healthy singing in choral and applied studio settings.

“The Aging Voice: An Interview with Six Conductors” by Mark Lawley; Vol 2. Issue 4, Summer 2010
Written specifically for choral conductors who work with mature adult singers, this article provides a glimpse into the mind of six conductors.

“The Missing Musical Element in Rehearsals and Performances: Humanity” by Lynda Marshall; Vol 12. Issue 2, Winter 2020

Two pieces of advice from a veteran teacher to their first-year teacher self.

“The Unique Attributes of a Collegiate Ensemble Director” by Sarin Williams; Vol 11. Issue 2, Winter 2019

Six collegiate ensemble conductor/teachers offer advice to the aspiring college professor in ten areas, including recruiting, budget, collaboration, and administrative work.

“The Vocal Edge” by Leanne Freeman-Miller; Vol 1. Issue 1, Fall 2008

This article summarizes Richard Miller’s pedagogical ideas that were presented during a weeklong workshop in Chicago.

“Warm-Ups, Repertoire, and Resources for Male Choirs” by Amy Hughley; Vol 1. Issue 4, Spring 2009

This article contains suggestions from middle school, high school, and collegiate male choir directors for reliable warm-up exercises, favorite spring repertoire, and resources for summer reading.

“What My Choral Director Really Taught Me” by John Petzet; Vol 13. Issue 4, Summer 2021

The author of this article discusses how through the art of music, conductors are teaching poetry and literature, critical thinking, empathy and understanding, foreign language, and more.

“What’s in a Name? One Ensemble’s Journey Toward a More Inclusive Identity” by Dominique Petite; Vol 13. Issue 4, Summer 2021

The author of this article shares their story of working with administration and current and past ensemble members to change their ensemble name from “Women’s Ensemble” to “Bella Voce.”

9. Jazz

“To Jazz or Not to Jazz” by James McCullough; Vol 4. Issue 1, Fall 2011

The author of this article offers suggestions for directors who want to explore the jazz art form in their choral programs.

“You Can Learn to Scat Sing—Techniques to Enhance Beginning Vocal Improvisation” by Scott Fredrickson; Vol 5. Issue 3, Spring 2013

This article examines the key to scat singing and suggests that anyone can develop these basic skills.

10. TTBB Singer

“Choral Repertoire for Mixed Choir Every Conductor Should be Aware of—with One Men’s Part” by Kevin Smith; Vol 10. Issue 3, Spring 2018

The author of this article discusses his favorite repertoire for mixed choir with one male part. The link to download a full list of repertoire is included.

“Helping Corey Match Pitch” by Catharine Melhorn; Vol 3. Issue 2, Winter 2011
This article provides ten techniques the author used to assist a male singer with informal pitch practice.

“Maintaining Boys’ Interest in Singing” by Terry Barham; Vol 13. Issue 4, Summer 2021
This article presents suggestions for maintaining boys’ interest in singing, beginning with the conductor’s attitude, resilience, and rehearsal atmosphere.

“Male Chorus: Recruit, Maintain, and Develop” by Mark Cotter; Vol 3. Issue 3, Spring 2011
The author of this article shares ideas and activities for working with male singers, specifically at the high school level.

“Men’s and Women’s Choirs: How Different Are They?” by Amy Hughley; Vol 5. Issue 1, Fall 2012
The author of this article suggests that it is our duty to overcome the challenges of single-gender choirs to create beautiful choral music, but before we can do this, we must understand the differences of men’s and women’s choirs.

“Mission Impossible? or How Best to Recruit and Retain Junior High Male Chorus Members” by Suzanne Callahan; Vol 8. Issue 2, Winter 2016
This article offers tips and tricks the author has used for successful recruiting and retaining of junior high male chorus members.

“Recruiting Boys into Choirs—Techniques that Work” by Jonathan Krinke; Vol 6. Issue 4, Summer 2014
This article focuses on four target groups—MS boys, HS boys currently in choir, HS boys not currently in choir, and HS boys who have sung in the past but are not now singing—and provides practical recruiting suggestions and encouragement for recruitment.

“Role Playing and Teamwork in the Male Choir” by Andrew Crow; Vol 5. Issue 4, Summer 2013
This article uses basketball analogies to present a model toward directing young male singers’ efforts in rehearsals.

“Singing Seniors” by Nicole Aldrich; Vol 11. Issue 4, Summer 2019.
Learn tips, exercises, and encouragement for keeping older adult singers performing at a high level.

“The Space Between: Developing the Intermediate Tenor/Bass Singer” by John McDonald; Vol 14, Issue 4; Summer 2022
The author shares advice for working with upper middle school or early high school singers who are undergoing a voice shift related to puberty.

“Warm-Ups, Repertoire, and Resources for Male Choirs” by Amy Hughley; Vol 1. Issue 4, Spring 2009

This article contains suggestions from middle school, high school, and collegiate male choir directors for reliable warm-up exercises, favorite spring repertoire, and resources for summer reading.

“Where the Wild Things Are: Teaching Middle School Boys’ Choirs” by Mary Jane Phillips; Vol 1. Issue 1, Fall 2008

The author of this article offers tips from her own experience as a female teaching middle school boys.

11. Multicultural

“A New Normal: Choral Culture as a Catalyst for Change” by Sarah J. Graham; Vol 9, Issue 2, Winter 2017.

This article discusses composers and works that give voice to an important and timely event or theme.

“Addressing Racial and Cultural Challenges in Choirs” by Baruch Whitehead; Vol 13, Issue 3; Spring 2021

This article details a collaboration between a predominantly white high school choir and a multiracial, intergenerational choir of college and community singers.

“Cross-Curricular Instruction in the Choral Classroom” by Andrew Bruhn; Vol 8, Issue 4, Summer 2016

This article explores the fact that music education is innately cross-curricular. A general outline of the author’s approach to teaching a foreign language work is included.

“Global Music in Christian Worship” by Jeff Clouser; Vol 9. Issue 1, Fall 2016

This article suggests that including global music in worship services is one way to learn how people all over the world worship God and provides suggestions for repertoire, style, and songbooks from around the world.

“Going Global: World Music in the Choral Classroom” by Jennifer Alarcon and Brian C. Murray; Vol 7. Issue 4, Summer 2015

Multicultural music education is about providing options and opening doors to diversity within the classroom. This article is for any choral director wanting to implement world music into their repertoire.

“New Bridges to Cross: Ideas to Motivate and Stimulate Multicultural Emphasis in the Choral Classroom” by Sarah Ross; Vol 1. Issue 2, Winter 2009

This article offers creative, simple ideas about how to incorporate multicultural music into the classroom.

“Sharing through Song: Resources for Singing Migration Stories” by Ethan M. Chessin; Vol 13. Issue 3, Spring 2021

For those who wonder how to use song to tell someone else’s story, the author of this article provides “resources for teachers and directors interested in using music to teach choirs and audiences about immigration.”

“Stuck in the Middle—Finding Multicultural Repertoire for Middle School Choirs” by Kurt McKee; Vol 6. Issue 4, Summer 2014

This article shares tips for how to find literature that not only teaches musical skills and concepts but also represents a variety of cultures. Also included is a list of “tried and true” repertoire.

“Teaching Culturally: Encounters with Immigrant Students” by Sarah J. Graham; Vol 10. Issue 4, Summer 2018

The author of this article offers suggestions for being culturally responsible while working with students from other cultures and ethnic traditions.

“The Concert Spiritual—It is Closer to Western Classical Music than You Might Think” by M. Roger Holland; Vol 11. Issue 4, Summer 2019

This article shares a brief history of spirituals, and discusses the distinction between the spirituals and gospel music.

“The Role Music Plays in Racial Identity—One Conductor’s View” by Adan Alejandro Fernandez; Vol 10. Issue 3, Spring 2018

The author of this article candidly shares his experience as a Latin music student and offers thoughts on racial identity in the choral music classroom.

“Understanding World Rhythms in Music in a Simpler Way” by Jim Papoulis; Vol 6. Issue 1, Fall 2013

The author of this article shares an experience that explains why world rhythms that seem easy actually look difficult when notated on the page.

“World Music for Choirs: Benefits, Barriers, and Basic Pedagogy for Teachers” by Stefanie Cash; Vol 6. Issue 3, Spring 2014

This article examines the historical importance of world music, offers the benefits of exposing students to these works, and suggests several teaching approaches along with a list of resources for further study.

“Music In-Between the Notes and from Other Cultures” by David V. Montoya; Vol 2. Issue 3, Spring 2010

The author of this article explores music “in-between” a standard octave, at times using music of other cultures to give us an opportunity to expand our ears and our cultural understanding.

12. Performance

“Asking Facebook Colleagues What Enhances Choral Sound—A Pilot Study” by Derrick Thompson; Vol 11. Issue 2, Winter 2019

How does a choir create amazing choral sound? This article shares responses from a number of choral conductors when asked, “What do you consider important characteristics of a great-sounding choir?”

“Changing the Expressionless Faces that Sing in Your Choirs by Micah Bland”; Vol 9. Issue 3, Spring 2017

This article discusses the importance of visual expressiveness in musical performance citing recent research and offering movement exercises to incorporate into warmups and rehearsals.

“Considering Choral Competition—Perspectives on Motivation” by David W. Langley and Shannon Jeffreys; Vol 9. Issue 3, Spring 2017

Three choral directors offer viewpoints on the topic of choral competition. Both benefits and negatives of attending adjudicated choral festivals and competitions are discussed.

“Educating Contemporary Audiences: Times Have Changed” by Scott Buchanan; Vol 4. Issue 1, Fall 2011

The author of this article shares a list of things choral conductors can do to educate audiences on how to be respectful in order to make the concert experience pleasant for all.

“Getting Beyond Slick” by Dennis Malfatti; Vol 6. Issue 2, Winter 2014

This article asks the question: What is it that separates the good but not moving performance from those that touch our hearts? It discusses three elements that contribute to a truly great performance.

“Knowing the Score: Where Pedagogy and Classroom Management Meet the Unexpected” by Thomas Blue; Vol 12. Issue 4, Summer 2020

This article will share an approach to score study focusing on vocal and choral pedagogy for adolescent singers and how this focus can improve one’s planning, teaching, and performance.

“Lifting Up the Littles: Highlighting Your Youngest Singers through Commissioned Works, Effective Rehearsal, and Performance Opportunities” by Jess Edelbrock; Vol 15, Issue 1; Fall 2022

The author of this article explores practical ideas for highlighting your youngest singers and setting them up for success.

“May I Suggest a Better Blend?” by Donna Spicer; Vol 2. Issue 4, Summer 2010

The author of this article shares how she evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of the performance and preparation during rehearsals.

“Not Your Grandparents’ Choral Concert: Creating Engaging Programs for Today’s Singers and Audiences” by Richard Schnipke; Vol 10. Issue 1, Fall 2017.

Conductors need to create programs that will keep singers and audiences excited and engaged. This article offers practical ideas to consider when planning your next concert.

“Performance Anxiety: 5 Strategies That Worked for Choir Students” by Mikayla Feldman; Vol 14, Issue 2; Winter 2022

In this practical article, readers will find five essential themes that high school students cited as helping them manage or diffuse performance anxiety.

“Performance-Based Assessments in Choirs” by Meagan Dissinger; Vol 14, Issue 1, Fall 2021

The author of this article is a public school teacher and writes about performance-based assessment, which can be implemented in a variety of teaching settings and is a useful tool for evaluation and an authentic experience that builds relationships.

“Reconnecting Singing Communities through Participatory, Singer-Led, and Educational Performance Events” by Jennifer C. Hutton; Vol 14, Issue 2; Winter 2022

The author of this article shares ideas for participatory, singer-led, and educational performances that can empower singers, deepen singers’ and community members’ interactions, and help individuals heal as they gather together again.

“Solfege for the Performance-Oriented Classroom” by Heather Christiansen; Vol 13, Issue 2, Winter 2021

The author offers practical ideas to upgrade activities you already do by adding a solfege twist.

“Sight Singing for Others at Your School” by Lindsay Brazell; Vol 11. Issue 2, Winter 2019

In this article, the author shares tips and suggestions for practicing sight singing outside the comfort of your classroom with a live audience.

“Thinking about an International Tour? Plan Ahead!” By Terry Barham; Vol 10. Issue 1, Fall 2017.

Find solid, easy-to-implement advice for international choir tour travel in this helpful article, including tips for bookkeeping, fund-raising projects, scheduling, and more.

“Who Should Attend Festivals? You!” By David Hensley; Vol 14, Issue 1, Fall 2021

In this continuation of a Choral Journal feature article from September 2021, the author offers an overview of choral festivals—what they are, what they offer, and why we should attend them.

13. Recruiting

“Building the Chorus: Recruiting Techniques that Work” by David L. Hensley; Vol 15, Issue 3; Spring 2023

The author has made updates to his 1983 Choral Journal article, which offers twenty-five strategies that help in building (or re-building) a successful choral program.

“Male Chorus: Recruit, Maintain, and Develop” by Mark Cotter; Vol 3. Issue 3, Spring 2011
The author of this article shares ideas and activities for working with male singers, specifically at the high school level.

“Mission Impossible? or How Best to Recruit and Retain Junior High Male Chorus Members” by Suzanne Callahan; Vol 8. Issue 2, Winter 2016
This article offers tips and tricks the author has used for successful recruiting and retaining of junior high male chorus members.

“Recruiting and Retention Ideas for Beginning High School Choral Directors” by Lorraine Lynch; Vol 12. Issue 2, Winter 2020
An outline for recruiting and retention in high school choral programs.

“Recruiting Boys into Choirs—Techniques that Work” by Jonathan Krinke; Vol 6. Issue 4, Summer 2014
This article focuses on four target groups—MS boys, HS boys currently in choir, HS boys not currently in choir, and HS boys who have sung in the past but are not now singing—and provides practical recruiting suggestions and encouragement for growing the number of males in your middle school and high school choirs.

“Recruiting Singers With No Feeder Program? Yes, You Can” by Dana Alexander; Vol 3. Issue 4, Summer 2011
The author of this article shares ideas for recruiting at the high school level even though there are no “feeder” schools.

“Recruiting, Training, and Mentoring Choral Music Educators to Make a Difference: An Interview with Anton Armstrong and Lynn Brinckmeyer” by Kirk Aamot; Vol 7. Issue 1, Fall 2014
In this article, Anton Armstrong and Lynn Brinckmeyer discuss what they have learned through many years teaching and training singers of all ages.

“Spinning My Wheels! Lamentations, Reflections, and Reset Plans of a Bewildered Choir Director” by Nythia Martinez; Vol 15, Issue 3; Spring 2023
The author provides five recruitment experiments she plans to incorporate in the upcoming school year.

“Teaching Strategies for the Out-of-Balance Ensemble” by Gregory W. LeFils Jr.; Vol 15, Issue 2; Winter 2023

The article will offer strategies to help choral educators to engage and retain middle school singers.

14. Rehearsals

“A Delicate Balance—Caring for the Music and the Singers” by J. Dennis Morrissey; Vol. 13, Issue 3; Spring 2021

This is an interview article with twelve college/university choral conductors from Illinois answering questions about caring for the music and the singers, rehearsal balance, and more.

“A Systematic Approach to the Placement of Singers in Large Choirs” by Brian Lanier; Vol 3, Issue 1, Fall 2010

This article suggests that placement is one of the most important factors for successful choral performances and offers suggestions for determining singer distribution, specifically for larger choirs.

“Advocating for Music Education Opportunities for Children with Special Needs” by Brent Merritt; Vol 9, Issue 4, Summer 2017.

The author of this article shares a list of activities and lessons he has found success with as he teaches a music class for students with special needs.

“Battling the October Blues: Stimulus Variation in Rehearsals” by Erin Colwitz; Vol 6, Issue 4, Summer 2014

This article offers a list of ways you can continue to be the best teacher/conductor you can be while also motivating your students.

“Challenge Your Singers and They Challenge Each Other” by Travis Rogers; Vol 5, Issue 4, Summer 2013

The author of this article shares a rehearsal process he used with his choirs to increase focus and a healthy attitude of competition as it relates to improving their singing abilities.

“Changing the Expressionless Faces that Sing in Your Choirs” by Micah Bland; Vol 9, Issue 3, Spring 2017

Many choirs are fulfilling to hear but uninspiring to watch. This article discusses the importance of visual expressiveness in musical performance citing recent research and offering movement exercises to incorporate into warmups and rehearsals.

“Choir Member Placement and Its Acoustic Effects” by Margaret M. Woods; Vol 7, Issue 4, Summer 2015

Discover ways to create the best possible choral sound by examining the effects of singer placement within a choral ensemble. This article offers suggestions for spacing and formation and provides practical tips for implementation in the rehearsal.

“Choir Practices That I Plan to Use After the Pandemic” by Adan Fernandez; Vol 14, Issue 1, Fall 2021

The Covid-19 pandemic forced educators to adapt to new technology and new ways of teaching. In this article, the author shares his silver linings—methods of working that he will continue even after the pandemic.

“Church Choir Directors/Organists: Conducting Gesture and Active Listening in Rehearsals and Worship” by Jason Thomas; Vol 4, Issue 3, Spring 2012

This article focuses on two dilemmas—conducting gesture and listening—and offers suggestions for ways to improve while growing your choir as singers and musicians.

“Classical Improvisation: A Powerful and Effective Addition to Choral Warm-Ups” by Matthew Potterton; Vol 7, Issue 3, Spring 2015

This article includes fun, creative ideas for incorporating improvisation into the choral warm-up.

“Critical Thinking in Rehearsals” by Gregory LeFils Jr; Vol 13, Issue 1, Fall 2020

Learn skills of critical thinking and teaching for transfer during rehearsals to reap the benefits of a fast learning process and stronger choral program.

“Democratic Approaches for the Choral Ensemble: Repertoire Choice and Rehearsal Design” by Robert C. Jordan; Vol 14, Issue 2; Winter 2022

This article shares one teacher’s approach toward encouraging the development of musically independent students who engage collaboratively through dialogue, cooperation, democratic practice, critical thinking, and problem solving.

“Developing Appropriate Teacher-Student Relationships” by Micah Bland; Vol 12, Issue 3, Spring 2020

Find suggestions for making appropriate connections between teachers and students. Topics discussed include boundaries, conversation, interactions, and developing positive relationships.

“Emerging (Student) Teachers Grow and Excel: Planting, Watering, Harvesting in the Real World” by Robby Shellard and Jeremy Little; Vol 6, Issue 1, Fall 2013

This article explores how to spot challenges when teaching students new music and constructively plan for overcoming them so that choral conductors can use rehearsals more effectively.

“End-of-the-Year Activities in the Music Classroom” by Andrew Bruhn; Vol 9, Issue 3, Spring 2017

In this article the author offers ideas for keeping the end of the school year positive and successful for middle and high school students, keeping things fun while remaining musically focused.

“First Things First in Early Choir Rehearsals: Classroom Procedures that Get Results” by Jason Sickel; Vol 3. Issue 2, Winter 2011

This article lists proactive questions to ask yourself before the first day of rehearsal to facilitate a smoother experience for you and your students.

“Forests of Song: Building Environmental Stewardship through Choral Singing” by Mark Petty; Vol 14, Issue 1, Fall 2021

Choral singing can be an excellent platform for fostering environmental stewardship. This article discusses our creative art form that celebrates beauty, community, and wonder in a way that can help us care for the natural world.

“Getting Inside the Mind of the Composer” by Carl Ashley; Vol 11. Issue 4, Summer 2019

When approaching a composition, there are questions to consider to help a conductor get inside a composer’s mind. Learn more in this article.

“Gestural Techniques that Communicate Beautiful Singing” by Derrick Thompson; Vol 13. Issue 4, Summer 2021

This article provides a perspective on how a choral conductor communicates beautiful singing.

“Go and Shine! Part 2: Eight Strategies for Cultivating a Positive Rehearsal Space” by Elizabeth Weismehl; Vol 15, Issue 4; Summer 2023

This two-part article provides strategies for finding joy by focusing on mindfulness and gratitude. Part one is for our own benefit. Part two is for use with singers.

“Healing Our Singers, Healing Ourselves—Social and Emotional Learning in Choir” by Lindsey Blackhurst; Vol 13, Issue 2, Winter 2021

This article discusses social and emotional learning and the student benefits, encouraging teachers to cultivate SEL skills inherent in choral singing more intentionally.

“How and Why to Incorporate Movement in Choral Rehearsals” by Kathryn E. Briggs; Vol 12. Issue 1, Fall 2019

Exercises in the choral rehearsal have proven to be beneficial. This article shares six criteria for successful use of movement in rehearsal, along with suggested resources.

“Humor in Choral Rehearsals” by Steven Sieck; Vol 4. Issue 2, Winter 2012

This article offers twelve reasons to use humor in choir rehearsals, not for providing entertainment, but for more singer engagement and true learning.

“Hymns: A New/Old Resource for Teaching Choral Music” by Jody Blake; Vol 9, Issue 2, Winter 2017

Explore the endless possibilities of using hymns for teaching and performance in your choral classroom. This article provides practical strategies and suggestions for integrating hymns into the choral music curriculum.

“I Heart (Love) Sight Singing!” by Jane Vanderhoff; Vol 11. Issue 3, Spring 2019

The author of this article asked singers to write down their thoughts about sight singing and shares them in five main categories.

“Incorporating Mindfulness into the Choral Rehearsal” by Lawrence E. Fisher; Vol 12. Issue 1, Fall 2019

Create mindfulness and focus in your choral rehearsals by using a centering exercise with students that asks them to pay attention to breath and deep breathing. The goal is to help students who may be struggling with finding hope and peace in their daily lives.

“It’s Not All About Me!” by Jeff Rice; Vol 4. Issue 4, Summer 2012

This article suggests that it is good to allow students to make some decisions in the rehearsal room and provides ideas for making this part of the instruction process.

“Jam Sessions—Informal Music Making That Can Enrich Your Choral Program” by Craig Denison; Vol 5. Issue 1, Fall 2012

This article provides guidelines for instituting “jam sessions” into choir rehearsals on a semi-regular basis in order to provide students with a chance to informally explore music in a new way.

“Keeping Ourselves Honest: Are We Fully Prepared for Rehearsal?” by Catherine Feazell; Vol 10. Issue 4, Summer 2018

The author offers a helpful “checklist” for the process of score selection and study.

“Key Concepts in Choral Singing” by Edith A. Copley; Vol 4. Issue 4, Summer 2012

The author of this article shares a list of key choral concepts that she compiled throughout the course of her teaching career.

“May I Suggest a Better Blend?” by Donna Spicer; Vol 2. Issue 4, Summer 2010

The author of this article shares how she evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of the performance and preparation during rehearsals.

“Mix It Up. You Won’t Believe What Will Happen!” by Danny Detrick; Vol 1. Issue 2, Winter 2009

Improve your rehearsals by breaking free from traditional section standing arrangements and “mix it up” with new mixed formations using the tips provided in this article.

“Percussion for Choral Conductors” by Dustin Woodard; Vol 10. Issue 3, Spring 2018

Percussion can sometimes be difficult to understand. The author of this article discusses topics

including: stick and mallet choices, how to talk to percussionists, and tips on leading percussionists in the context of a choral rehearsal.

“Performance-Based Assessments in Choirs” by Meagan Dissinger; Vol 14, Issue 1, Fall 2021
The author of this article is a public school teacher and writes about performance-based assessment, which can be implemented in a variety of teaching settings and is a useful tool for evaluation and an authentic experience that builds relationships.

“Perhaps Wishing Will Make it So” by Barbara Retzko; Vol 4. Issue 2, Winter 2012
The author of this article shares her “choral rehearsal wish list.”

“Planning Ahead: Five Considerations for Future Choral Music Classrooms” by Andrew Lusher; Vol 12. Issue 4, Summer 2020
How have you adjusted to our new normal of virtual choir rehearsals? The author of this article offers practical tips for classrooms as we consider what school might look like this coming semester.

“Planning Productive, Efficient Choral Rehearsals: Young Conductors, Take Note” by Stephen Kingsbury; Vol 7. Issue 4, Summer 2015
Find suggestions for long-term planning, score study, and diagnosing and addressing specific challenges as the choir progresses through the rehearsal process.

“Practice What You Preach—Linking Kinesthetic and Affective Education to Conductors’ Emotional Health in Beginning Chorus Rehearsals” by Steven Dahlke; Vol 6. Issue 2, Winter 2014
This article explores “how conductors can advance learning in beginning choir rehearsals by creating a positive atmosphere in the classroom.”

“Preparation, Practice, Performance, and Pondering: A Different Approach to Score Preparation” by Thomas Blue; Vol 9, Issue 2, Winter 2017
This article is based on the author’s interest session presented at the annual junior high/middle school fall conference. Discover teaching and rehearsal strategies and the author’s “thoughts along the way” based on his experiences inside and outside of the choral classroom.

“Preparing for Success with the Adult Choirs at Your Church” by Aaron Jackson; Vol 9. Issue 4, Summer 2017.
Learn keys to being professional, productive, and proficient as the conductor of an adult choir with the tips shared in this article, including a helpful list of recommended resources.

“Preparing for the First Rehearsal: A Guide for Choral Conductors” by Timothy Mount; Vol 10. Issue 2, Winter 2018.
Careful planning and mindful techniques are the foundation of a productive rehearsal. The author of this article shares keys to efficient choral rehearsals, using Bach’s motet *Jesu, meine Freude*, BWV 227 as a sample guide.

“Preserving the Choral Art in the Time of COVID: ‘How Can I Keep From Singing?’”
by David Howard and Jeffrey J. Gonda II; Vol 13. Issue 3, Spring 2021

The authors of this article share their experience with the challenges and triumphs of making music during the COVID pandemic in hope to inspire and encourage others.

“Reconsidering the Use of Metaphor in Choral Rehearsals” by Brian Winnie; Vol 13, Issue 1, Fall 2020

Reconsider the phrases, imagery, and metaphor used during rehearsals to provide singers with specific feedback on what they are doing well and what they need to improve.

“Reflections from the Soprano Sight Singing Room at Contest” by Cathy Crispino with Marie Lerner-Sexton; Vol 5. Issue 3, Spring 2013

The author of this article shares from her experience watching singers use practice time at contest to hear the music in their heads silently instead of practicing out loud.

“Rehearsal Strategies and Rubrics for Choirs” by Genevieve Tep; Vol 5. Issue 1, Fall 2012

This article provides four rehearsal concepts that will make a big difference in the overall productivity of the choir.

“Rehearsing with Robert Shaw, Legendary Conductor, Meadow Brook, 1966” by Martin Kessler; Vol 12. Issue 3, Spring 2020

The author of this article offers “a taste of Shaw” in a rehearsal setting from his own firsthand experience.

“Relationships: Their Power and Importance” by Jason Sickel; Vol 10. Issue 1, Fall 2017.

The author of this article, named 2017 Kansas Teacher of the Year, shares advice for how to build strong and lasting relationships with students and colleagues, including tools, ideas, and activities for the classroom.

“Rhythmic Integrity in the Choral Rehearsal: A Bag of Tricks and More” by Thomas Wine; Vol 1. Issue 4, Spring 2009

This article is intended to help a reader understand and have a method for solving counting problems during rehearsal in order to encourage the musical health of the ensemble.

“Role Playing and Teamwork in the Male Choir” by Andrew Crow; Vol 5. Issue 4, Summer 2013

This article uses basketball analogies to present a model toward directing young male singers’ efforts in rehearsals.

“Ronald Staheli: Exemplary Music Evaluator” by David Williams; Vol 9. Issue 1, Fall 2016

This article is built on a case study demonstrating how retired director Ronald Staheli encourages himself and choir members to self-evaluate in order to facilitate improvement as musicians and life in general.

“Score Preparation for Sacred Choral Music of the Renaissance” by Stefanie L. Cash; Vol 10, Issue 3, Spring 2018

Preparing choirs for the performance of Renaissance choral music can be challenging. In this article, the author provides guidelines to assist in the preparation of sacred Renaissance choral music.

“Singing in a Chorus—Do’s and Don’ts for Church or Community Chorus Members” by Stephanie A. Henry; Vol 9, Issue 3, Spring 2017

This short article provides practical suggestions for singers who wish to be successful in their choirs.

“Solfege for the Performance-Oriented Classroom” by Heather Christiansen; Vol 13, Issue 2, Winter 2021

The author offers practical ideas to upgrade activities you already do by adding a solfege twist.

“Some Thoughts on Singing in Tune” by Richard Sowers; Vol 8, Issue 4, Summer 2016

In this practical article, the author offers observations about intonation and pitch that he has made over his years of teaching choral music.

“Taming the Text” by Randel Wagner; Vol 2, Issue 2, Winter 2010

This article offers nine text threads to help conductors work with words during rehearsals.

“Teaching Habits of Mind in Youth Choirs: Adapting *A Mind-set for Learning* to Enhance the Choral Experience” by Lindsey Blackhurst; Vol 10, Issue 2, Winter 2018.

Using as a framework the ideas provided by Kristine Mraz and Christine Hertz in their guide for the elementary classroom teacher, this article discusses practical implementation to fostering a mind-set of learning within a choral ensemble.

“Teaching Rote with Rigor: Embedding Musical Concepts and Preparing for Music Literacy” by Craig Hurley and Rebecca L. Atkins; Vol 14, Issue 4; Summer 2022

“This article will present four instructional strategies to increase the rigor of rote teaching by introducing musical concepts such as form, lyric interpretation, and expression while furthering musical literacy.”

“The Art of Teaching Music Literacy to Develop Independent Musicians” by Janel Huyett; Vol 14, Issue 4; Summer 2022

The author shares tips for learning music in a way that develops a “broader understanding of musical concepts and language.”

“The Brain and Music” by Larry Swingen; Vol 12, Issue 1, Fall 2019

This article explores how music and the brain relate, and the author offers practical suggestions for the classroom.

“The Challenge of Blending the Voices within Each Section of Your Choir—It Can Be Done!”
by Terry J. Barham; Vol 12. Issue 3, Spring 2020

This article is for those who struggle with getting different voices to blend while rehearsing and performing using a method shared at a workshop by Weston Noble.

“The Collaborative Rehearsal” by Jason Heald; Vol 1. Issue 1, Fall 2008

This article provides three simple concepts for choral conductors that may be useful in preparing choir members for the collaborative rehearsal and for becoming effective conductors themselves.

“The Missing Link: An Intermediate Step for Introducing New Music to Your Choir” by Bo Shirah and Micah Bland; Vol 11. Issue 4, Summer 2019

Add an intermediate step to the method of sight-reading that will allow singers to focus solely on pitch and become familiar with the melodic and harmonic content separately from rhythm and text.

“The Role Trust Plays in Musical Rehearsals” by Tom Wine; Vol 7. Issue 3, Spring 2015

This article offers practical exercises that you can implement in your rehearsals to inspire confidence in your singers and build trust during the music-making process.

“The Singer in Prison” by Rich McKinney; Vol 5. Issue 1, Fall 2012

The author of this article writes about his experience conducting choirs after losing his vocal cords due to throat cancer.

“Today is the First Day of the Rest of the Year” by Cliff Ganus; Vol 5. Issue 3, Spring 2013

The author of this article reminds us that a primary goal as choral conductors is musical excellence, and we can start today to inspire and help singers toward that goal.

“Translating Emotion to Expression: Five Strategies to Try” by Christopher Loftin; Vol 15, Issue 4; Summer 2023

This article breaks down vocal and visual expression into five principles that provide an opportunity for students to create expressive decisions in a healthy manner.

“Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There is a Season)” by Bill Zurkey; Vol 5. Issue 2, Winter 2013

This article explores two ways of thinking about sight-reading: both as a time to plant the skills and a time to reap those skills when at contest.

“Virtual Rehearsals in the Time of the Pandemic” by Darius Polikaitis; Vol 12. Issue 4, Summer 2020

The author of this article briefly shares a colleague’s experience running a virtual choir rehearsal.

“Voices in your Head: A Method for Teaching Audiation in the Secondary Choral Classroom”
by Micah Bland; Vol 10. Issue 4, Summer 2018

The author suggests that audiation is a fundamental part of a student’s musical development. Vocal exercises, audiation in sight-singing, and potential challenges are all discussed.

“When We Teachers Walk Through the Door—New Teachers, Take Note” by Nicole Lamartine; Vol 12. Issue 3, Spring 2020

In this practical article, the author shares preparations that put her in a productive and positive mindset before conducting and rehearsing.

“Why Won’t My Choir Sing?” by Dale Duncan; Vol 7. Issue 2, Winter 2015

This article shares five reasons why middle school singers won’t sing and presents practical ideas to help work toward rehearsals full of enthusiastic middle school singers.

“Words Are in the Mouth—Quality is in the Throat” by Brian Winnie; Vol 14, Issue 1, Fall 2021

The author of this article examines speech sounds and voice quality, offering ideas for score preparation and warmups, and helping conductor-teachers move toward a more comprehensive approach to teaching voice quality.

15. Repertoire

“A New Normal: Choral Culture as a Catalyst for Change” by Sarah J. Graham; Vol 9, Issue 2, Winter 2017.

This article discusses composers and works that give voice to an important and timely event or theme.

“A Thematic Approach to Planning Choral Programs” by Shereé Stoppel; Vol 4. Issue 2, Winter 2012

The author of this article shares ideas for programming works based on a single theme to uncover a variety of music. Sample themes and repertoire lists are included.

“Can We Really Sing Religious Music?” by James Benjamin Kinchen, Jr; Vol 10. Issue 1, Fall 2017.

This article discusses guidelines for choosing music with both sacred and secular texts for use in the public school system. A list of resources for further reading is included.

“Choosing Music for Those Awkward, Difficult, yet Beautiful People: Middle School Singers” by Elizabeth Batey; Vol 7. Issue 2, Winter 2015

This article contains a compilation of music for middle school singers of all vocal ranges.

“Choral Repertoire for Mixed Choir Every Conductor Should be Aware of—with One Men’s Part” by Kevin Smith; Vol 10. Issue 3, Spring 2018

The author of this article discusses his favorite repertoire for mixed choir with one male part. The link to download a full list of repertoire is included.

“CPDL (Choral Public Domain Library)—A Gold Mine for Choral Directors” by Jason Sickel; Vol 7. Issue 1, Fall 2014

The Choral Domain Public Library contains scores by over two thousand composers that are available for free download. This article contains an abbreviated list of categories with contents.

“Finding Repertoire: Confessions of a Recovering Choral Kleptomaniac” by David Giessow; Vol 6. Issue 1, Fall 2013

This article shares ideas for how to find and select repertoire that will be challenging, successful, educational, and appealing.

“Global Music in Christian Worship” by Jeff Clouser; Vol 9. Issue 1, Fall 2016

This article suggests that including global music in worship services is one way to learn how people all over the world worship God and provides suggestions for repertoire, style, and songbooks from around the world.

“Going Global: World Music in the Choral Classroom” by Jennifer Alarcon and Brian C. Murray; Vol 7. Issue 4, Summer 2015

Multicultural music education is about providing options and opening doors to diversity within the classroom. This article is for any choral director wanting to implement world music into their repertoire.

“IPA—It’s Not Just for Voice Studios Anymore” by Colin Brown; Vol 5. Issue 4, Summer 2013

This article is a crash-course in IPA, complete with a repertoire list, suggested resources, and more.

“Keeping Ourselves Honest: Are We Fully Prepared for Rehearsal?” by Catherine Feazell; Vol 10. Issue 4, Summer 2018

The author offers a helpful “checklist” for the process of score selection and study.

“Past, Present, and Future: Today’s Choral Repertoire” by Lynne Gackle; Vol 9, Issue 2, Winter 2017

Do we also have a responsibility to include classic music from the past in our programming? The author argues that we should not become too enamored of the “new” that we lose sight of the tried-and-true choral gems.

“Preparation, Practice, Performance, and Pondering: A Different Approach to Score Preparation” by Thomas Blue; Vol 9, Issue 2, Winter 2017

Discover teaching and rehearsal strategies and the author’s “thoughts along the way” based on his experiences inside and outside of the choral classroom.

“Programming for Choirs is an Art” by Ken Abrams; Vol 2. Issue 1, Fall 2009

This article discusses one approach to repertoire selection and offers five things to consider when programming music.

“Repertoire Search Strategies” by James D. Niblock; Vol 1. Issue 1, Fall 2008
Selecting music can be a tiring, frustrating experience. This article offers five clues to help you find the right repertoire for your choir.

“Resisting the Tyranny of the Barline: Teaching Metric Stress and “Meter” in Renaissance Polyphony” by Stephen Kingsbury; Vol 16, Issue 1; Winter 2024
This article will begin to explain the complexity of Renaissance rhythmic practice and suggests and efficient and effective means of teaching to enliven performances of this music.

“Score Preparation for Sacred Choral Music of the Renaissance” by Stefanie L. Cash; Vol 10. Issue 3, Spring 2018
Preparing choirs for the performance of Renaissance choral music can be challenging. In this article, the author provides guidelines to assist in the preparation of sacred Renaissance choral music.

“Selecting, Adapting, Writing, and Publishing Music for the Middle School Choir” by Emily Crocker; Vol 12. Issue 2, Winter 2020
This article is adapted from the author’s session at the 2019 ACDA National Conference on four areas of music selection: selecting, adapting, writing, and publishing.

“Sharing through Song: Resources for Singing Migration Stories” by Ethan M. Chessin; Vol 13. Issue 3, Spring 2021
For those who wonder how to use song to tell someone else’s story, the author of this article provides “resources for teachers and directors interested in using music to teach choirs and audiences about immigration.”

“Sing, Sing, Sing with a Swing—Jazzing Up Community Choirs” by Stephanie Austin Leston; Vol 2. Issue 3, Spring 2010
This article shares resources and literature suggestions for working with the vocal jazz genre to find repertoire and methods appropriate for community choirs.

“Singing Avant-Garde Compositions with Youth Choirs? Yes!” by Nancy Curry; Vol 3. Issue 3, Spring 2011
This article offers several ideas for using avant-garde choral music to teach musical and vocal concepts. A repertoire and resource list is included.

“Singing Polyphony Today—Why Have All the Flowers Gone?” by Jameson Marvin; Vol 13, Issue 1, Fall 2020
The author offers an argument in favor of the performance of polyphony.

“Stuck in the Middle—Finding Multicultural Repertoire for Middle School Choirs” by Kurt McKee; Vol 6. Issue 4, Summer 2014
This article shares tips for how to find literature that not only teaches musical skills and concepts but also represents a variety of cultures. Also included is a list of “tried and true” repertoire.

“The Best Things in Life are Free—Especially Choral Music” by James A. John; Vol 1. Issue 2, Winter 2009

This article explores the Choral Public Domain Library, the largest free sheet music website in the world.

“The Edition You Choose Matters” by Lee G. Barrow; Vol 4. Issue 2, Winter 2012

The author of this article discusses his experience with differing scores, coping strategies for performances and rehearsals, and how to determine the quality of an edition.

“The Mother/Daughter Choir: A Unique Experience for Your High School Women’s Choir” by Carol Earnhardt; Vol 6. Issue 3, Spring 2014

Find repertoire examples and tips for successful implementation of activities specific to your women’s choir in this article.

“The Rising Tide of Music Literacy” by David Edmonds; Vol 9. Issue 4, Summer 2017.

Utilize sighting-singing as a tool in your classroom that students can be excited about using the tips provided in this article. A list of works that work well with solfege practice is included.

“Warm-Ups, Repertoire, and Resources for Male Choirs” by Amy Hughley; Vol 1. Issue 4, Spring 2009

This article contains suggestions from middle school, high school, and collegiate male choir directors for reliable warm-up exercises, favorite spring repertoire, and resources for summer reading.

“What Do You Program?” by Daniel Monek; Vol 8. Issue 1, Fall 2015

The author of this article presents a list of factors to consider when choosing texts and music to share with our choirs and audiences.

16. Technology

“An Introductory Guide to Creating Virtual Choir Projects” by Wen Zhang; Vol 13, Issue 2, Winter 2021

The author shares her experience learning new technology during the creation of three virtual choir projects.

“Assessment in the Choral Classroom—New Options Using Technology” by Trisha Scheidies; Vol 5. Issue 3, Spring 2013

The author of this article explores ways to administer assessments based on RISE requirements and a new district-wide rubric.

“Creative Music Making with Technology in the Choral Classroom” by David Haas and Seth Pendergast; Vol 15, Issue 1; Fall 2022

The purpose of this article is to 1) examine how creative music making with DAWs (Digital Audio Workstations) support learning, and 2) explore practical DAW-based project examples.

“Evil or Essential? The Pros and Cons of Social Networking for Music Teachers” by Penny Carmack; Vol 4. Issue 4, Summer 2012

This article discusses the rising influence of social networking and the pros and cons of music teachers getting involved.

“Facebook, Email and Twitter: How Tweet It Is!” by Joelle Norris; Vol 3. Issue 1, Fall 2010

This article offers tips for more effective and organized communication between students, parents, and teachers using the tools of email, websites, and social media.

“iPads in the Choral Classroom” by Barbara Retzko; Vol 6. Issue 3, Spring 2014

Learn about ATTENDANCE2: a new app for the iPad that will save you time and make keeping track of attendance, arrival time, and absence easier for you and your students.

“Remixing the Algorithm: TikTok for Choirs” by Colleen McNickle; Vol 15, Issue 4; Summer 2023

The author of this article shares tip and strategies for utilizing the TikTok app for positive use in the choral classroom. The article includes a list of video ideas, examples for prompts, and some answers to FAQs.

“Software Apps for Choir Directors—Not Students” by Chris Clark; Vol 7. Issue 3, Spring 2015

This article provides a helpful list of seven apps for choir directors.

“Using Social Media and Technology to Strengthen Your Choral Program—Gibbon’s The Silver Swan in the 21st Century” by Barbara Retzko; Vol 3. Issue 3, Spring 2011

The author of this article shares a classroom assignment that inspired and encouraged singers. A scoring rubric is provided.

17. Vocal

“A Choral Director’s First Task” by Charles Chapman; Vol 2. Issue 1, Fall 2009

The author of this article argues that choral conductors have too little information about “how the human vocal tract can be trained to produce sounds different from those so-called ‘natural’ sounds the students bring to class the first day of the year.”

“Adolescent Identity Formation and the Singing Voice” by Nana Wolfe; Vol 4. Issue 3, Spring 2012

This article talks about how choral conductors can help guide adolescents through the process of becoming emerging adults, specifically regarding the vocal change, in a healthy way.

“Adolescent Voice Change: Frustration or Celebration” by Sandra Stegman and Tracey Nycz; Vol 8. Issue 2, Winter 2016

This article offers methods grounded in research and a real-world classroom for accepting and celebrating the changing voice.

“All of My Singers. Correct?” by Colleen Whidden; Vol 8. Issue 1, Fall 2015

This article describes the author’s private voice lessons with twelve voluntary adults who self-designated as non-singers to discover and help the singers’ discomfort with singing.

“An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure: Vocal Health Reminders for Music Educators, Conductors, and Singers” by Jason Paulk; Vol 7. Issue 2, Winter 2015

Learn about common vocal dysfunctions and strategies for avoidance in this article.

“Exercises for Head Voice Exploration and Development for Junior High/Middle School and High School Boys” by Terry J. Barham; Vol 5. Issue 2, Winter 2013

The author of this article shares exercises for the strengthening and healthy development of the boy’s head voice.

“Helping Corey Match Pitch” by Catharine Melhorn; Vol 3. Issue 2, Winter 2011

This article provides ten techniques the author used to assist a male singer with informal pitch practice.

“Singing Avant-Garde Compositions with Youth Choirs? Yes!” by Nancy Curry; Vol 3. Issue 3, Spring 2011

This article offers several ideas for using avant-garde choral music to teach musical and vocal concepts. A repertoire and resource list is included.

“Some Thoughts on Singing in Tune” by Richard Sowers; Vol 8. Issue 4, Summer 2016

In this practical article, the author offers observations about intonation and pitch that he has made over his years of teaching choral music.

“Teacher Self-Preservation: Tips for Preserving Your Voice” by Robin Samlan and Jeremy N. Manternach; Vol 8. Issue 4, Summer 2016

The authors offer ideas for maintaining a healthy voice that go beyond traditional vocal hygiene recommendations. Some of these strategies refer to the speaking voice, while others refer to the singing voice.

“The Aging Voice: An Interview with Six Conductors” by Mark Lawley; Vol 2. Issue 4, Summer 2010

Written specifically for choral conductors who work with mature adult singers, this article provides a glimpse into the mind of six conductors.

“The ‘Call’—Teaching Singers to Project Healthy Tone” by Franklin Green; Vol 2. Issue 2, Winter 2010

The author of this article shares what he learned from attending the DeKalb International Choral Festival in the early 1990s. Recommended literature is included.

“The Care and Preservation of the Voice” by Tony Thornton; Vol 11. Issue 3, Spring 2019

In this article, the author shares twenty tips to help conductors and singers maintain excellent vocal health throughout the year.

“The Shy Non-Singer—Elementary Teachers, Take Note!” by Michele Hobizal; Vol 8. Issue 3, Spring 2016

This article offers practical activities and suggestions for vocal exploration that will turn even the shyest singer into one who auditions for next year’s school musical.

“The Singer in Prison” by Rich McKinney; Vol 5. Issue 1, Fall 2012

The author of this article writes about his experience conducting choirs after losing his vocal cords due to throat cancer.

“The Space Between: Developing the Intermediate Tenor/Bass Singer” by John McDonald; Vol 14, Issue 4; Summer 2022

The author shares advice for working with upper middle school or early high school singers who are undergoing a voice shift related to puberty.

“The Vocal Edge” by Leanne Freeman-Miller; Vol 1. Issue 1; Fall 2008

This article summarizes Richard Miller’s pedagogical ideas that were presented during a weeklong workshop in Chicago.

“Vocal Health—My Journey” by Cathy Reitz; Vol 2. Issue 4; Summer 2010

The author of this article shares what she learned on her journey toward better vocal health.

“Where Have All the Altos Gone?” by Amy Allibon; Vol 2. Issue 1; Fall 2009

In this article, the author asks the question: “Where have all the altos gone?” and discusses why the goal of a choral conductor should be first and foremost to develop healthy singers.

“Who’s Afraid of Renaissance Music? No-Fear Solutions for Middle and Senior High Choirs” by Michael Zemek; Vol 4. Issue 3, Spring 2012

This article invites conductors to program Renaissance music with their choirs and offers suggestions for vocal range, notation, accompaniment, and more.

“Words Are in the Mouth—Quality is in the Throat” by Brian Winnie; Vol 14, Issue 1, Fall 2021

The author of this article examines speech sounds and voice quality, offering ideas for score preparation and warmups, and helping conductor-teachers move toward a more comprehensive approach to teaching voice quality.

“You Can Learn to Scat Sing—Techniques to Enhance Beginning Vocal Improvisation” by Scott Fredrickson; Vol 5. Issue 3, Spring 2013

This article examines the key to scat singing and suggests that anyone can develop these basic skills.

“You Might Not be the Only One Suffering from a Voice Problem—Music Teachers and Vocal Health” by Mary Lynn Morrissey Doherty; Vol 1. Issue 4, Spring 2009

This article discusses what an active teacher should do to preserve his or her voice and keep kids singing.

18. Ask a Conductor

Question 1 (Vol 14, Issue 2; Winter 2022): My morale coming back from winter break is low, and I'm struggling to get myself and my students excited about a new semester. What are your favorite games or activities, especially geared toward getting students out of their shells and engaged in the learning process?

Question 2 (Vol 14, Issue 3; Spring 2022): What are some techniques and values that elementary music teachers can instill in their students that will benefit the junior high and high school choral music programs?

Question 3 (Vol 14, Issue 4; Summer 2022): What are some ice breakers/community-building activities I can use for our first choir rehearsal of the season? My choir is very new and unsure of the idea of choir warm-ups and singing together with each other.

Question 4 (Vol 15, Issue 1; Fall 2022): What successful processes have been used to create positive, collaborative relationships between public and/or private school choirs and community children's choirs?

Question 5 (Vol 15, Issue 2; Winter 2023): What are some of your best practices for communicating with parents and caregivers, specifically when it comes to conflict resolution and expectations?

Question 6 (Vol 15, Issue 3; Spring 2023): I have noticed that my students get bored of rehearsing our pieces for our concert. We've been learning our pieces for a month and have another month before our concert. How can I make learning our pieces more engaging for them?

Question 7 (Vol 15, Issue 4; Summer 2023): What do you do with those students who don't often sing in your class? They say they enjoy being in choir, but I don't see evidence of this in their class performance, and their behavior during class is negatively impacting the group.

Question 8 (Vol 16, Issue 1; Winter 2024): How do you assess your middle school singers to determine vocal range?

19. K-12 Resources & Reviews

“K-12 Teaching Resources: Inspiration from Northwestern ACDA Members” compiled by Cheryl McIntyre; Vol 14, Issue 2; Winter 2022

Readers will find suggestions for tried-and-true resources for K-12 teachers compiled from ACDA members from the Northwestern Region.

“K-12 Teaching Resources: Repertoire Selections for School Choirs” compiled by Cheryl Dupont; Vol 14, Issue 3; Spring 2022

This article contains a collection of repertoire suggestions with notes on difficulty and recommended age group.

“K-12 Resources: Book Reviews” compiled by Jamila L. McWhirter; Vol 14, Issue 4; Summer 2022

ACDA’s standing committee for Education and Communication supply a selection of book reviews.

K-12 Resources: “12 Podcasts for Choral Music Educators” compiled by Mindy Cook; Vol 15, Issue 1; Fall 2022

K-12 Resources: “Repertoire for Musical Growth: A Selection of Choral Music Reviews for the Middle School Classroom” by Matthew Hill; Vol 15, Issue 2; Winter 2023

K-12 Resources: “It’s Time to Warm Up!” by Patrick McGuire; Vol 15, Issue 3; Spring 2023

K-12 Resources: “The Ideal Choral Music Teacher: A Student Description” by Lloyd P. Campbell; Vol 15, Issue 4; Summer 2023

K-12 Resources: “Combined Choir Ideas” by Will Gunn, Juan Carlos Tavarez, and Karla McClain; Vol 16, Issue 1; Winter 2024