

NURTURING THE DEVELOPMENTAL SINGER: GOALS AND STRATEGIES

A. Pastoral Model: Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice (Helen Kemp)

B. Basic Premises and Goals: (Judy Bowers)

1. The Choir needs to sound good!
2. The singers need to be proud of what they do!
3. The singers must have an aesthetic experience!

C. Affective Modes of Learning (Anton Armstrong)

1. Visual
2. Oral/Aural
3. Kinesthetic/Tactile

D. Developmental Teaching Strategy (Anton Armstrong and Judy Bowers)

1. Meet the singers where they are and lead them from there. What do they need to be successful? Establishing trust and respect with the ensemble.
2. Experiential Learning
3. Focus on Part Singing Skills and Quality Developmental Repertoire
 - Unison Song
 - Add an ostinato (rhythmic and melodic)
 - Add a descant
 - Partner Songs
 - Sing Canon/Rounds (or phrases or sections of a canon if needed first)
 - Sing 2 to 4 part music with the added parts more linear/melodic in design.
4. Score Study and Rehearsal Organization: Prediction/Prevention
5. Teaching for Transfer of Knowledge: Nurturing Expressive Singing

Basically we begin with the premise of that our singers have limited knowledge. We then must teach them what they need to be responsible for in the score in order to sing with musical expressivity. These musical principles guide the singers' decision making process in rehearsal and performance.

- The Rule of the Steady Beat
- The Rule of Tie Over the Bar Line
- The Rule of Diphthongs
- The Rule of Word Stress
- The Rule of "S"
- The Rule of Punctuation

E. An Effective Rehearsal Model—Building on a Mission Statement