

How to Make Your Quartet Journey Fun and Productive

Class Description:

It's all about the journey! Learn how to make it fun and productive. Get tips and tricks on creating efficient and effective rehearsals, setting common goals, identifying who you are and what your image is, and laughing a lot a lot along the way.

Learning Targets

- Provide ideas to help your quartet identify who you are and what your end goals are
- Provide ideas tools to help quartet create efficient, effective and fun rehearsals

Tips & Tricks

Elements of a Happy and Productive Quartet

- Like and respect each other; culture of openness and support
- Aligned quartet goals
- Defined quartet image which then drives most decisions, i.e. music, costuming, etc.
- Productive use of your time
- Celebrations along the way
- Everyone gets a “pay off” for spending their time doing this...their needs are being met

Courtship

- Who are we as people? What do we value?
 - Will this combination be able to satisfy the needs of each person?
 - How will we celebrate? What does each person consider fun?
 - How do you assess your compatibility?
- Is the talent level within the group a reasonable range such that no one person is holding everyone else back or so far ahead as to be bored?
- What are the non-negotiables? (i.e. I won't wear sleeveless; I won't sing “mother” songs; I can only afford \$xx a month; I don't want to be responsible for the finances; I want to sing but don't want to compete; I can't commit to more than 4 hours a week; timeliness and follow through on commitments is important to me; I expect all members to read music and be able to learn music on their own)
- Are the work ethic and time availability similar across all members?

I Do

- Define your image
- Establish norms
- Select a name
- Assign roles
- Set goal: “The intragroup harmony...singers experience will result in greater harmony on stage; harmony through harmony.” ~ Deke Sharon, *The Heart of Vocal Harmony*
- Select a first piece of music that is consistent with your image and hooks you personally—everyone can tell the same story

During the Honeymoon

- Breaking up is hard to do

Rehearsals: Routines—it's all about efficiency—and doing things that are aligned with skills and interests

- Is timeliness one of your norms?
- Environment: safe, supportive, open, and uninterrupted
- Agenda in advance
- Frequent recordings
- “Rehearsal Consistency. Perhaps the single most important principle for you to remember in rehearsal is this: the way you rehearse is the way you perform. Attempting to add emotion at the last moment before a performance, or having a discussion early in the process and then not referencing it until dress rehearsal, sends the message that it doesn't really matter. If the key to excellence is focused repetition, then you will need to make sure emotion is part of that repetition.”
- Enjoyment: “If people are having fun together, they will develop positive images of one another...bears dividends during practice and on stage.”
- WDW (who does what when)

Administrative Tasks

- Finances
- Costuming
- Correspondence
- Quartet Contact
- Travel Arrangements
- Coaching Contact

Performance and Musical Tasks

- Music acquisition and music librarian
- Rehearsal warm ups
- Running the rehearsal
- Performance Arrangements/Marketing
- Staging and Emcee

Celebrations

- Celebrate the little and the big things
 - “If you want to create great harmony, your group needs to be harmonious.”

How To Stay Happily “Glued Together”

- Keep things exciting (i.e. learn quickly; lots of coaching, perform a lot)
- Is coaching something you all look forward to?
- Performances—working toward something; “Performance gives purpose to rehearsal.”
- Celebrations—enjoy the successes along the way—kind of like dating
- Open & supportive environment; honor your norms

The Exit Strategy

- Current commitments
- Discussion, confidentiality, and communication