

JEN RANDALL, PRESENTER

VITAMIN SC:

How adding show choir can boost your
already thriving choral program!

WWW.SHOWCOLLECTIVE.COM



What is Show Choir?

- It's traditionally a mid-sized ensemble, often mixed, that includes both singing and dancing to choral music.
- Standard stage set up includes platform risers (8,16,24,32) and a live band performing the accompaniment, behind the risers.
- 5 song set is standard; shows generally run 13 - 16 minutes.
- Nowadays, show choir generally also means that it's a competitive ensemble. If you have a group that doesn't compete, you can call it a pop group, or a swing choir.

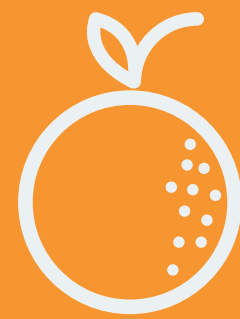
Example:

Omaha Westside Amazing Technicolor Show Choir,
2020 Show: Olympic Dreams

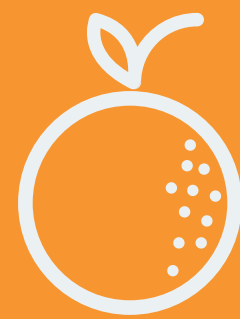


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCtr6HNd4kM>

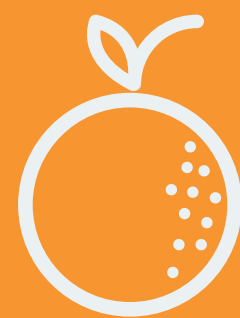
KEY NUTRIENTS FOR YOUR CHOIR PROGRAM



Pop music can be used as a tool to teach stylized singing and harmonies, intervals, and rhythmic patterns less common to traditional choral music.



Give your program an ensemble that uses widely known commercial music to draw in your community & audiences for more than just “pop show.”



The Social & Emotional connections that show choir builds, create experiences that support all facets of your program, not just show choir.

100% PURE MUSICIANSHIP

SURPRISED? DON'T BE!



STYLIZED VOCALS

Using source material as a guide, vocalists learn to replicate stylized tone using placement and shape to replicate the original piece in a choral way.

EAR TRAINING

Giving your students a wide variety of literature to experience opens their minds (and ears) to new sounds, making it easier for them to listen to their fellow singers.

SIGHT- READING

The more we read, the better we get. The more variety we read, the more variety we can learn quickly. Balance rote teaching with sight-reading.

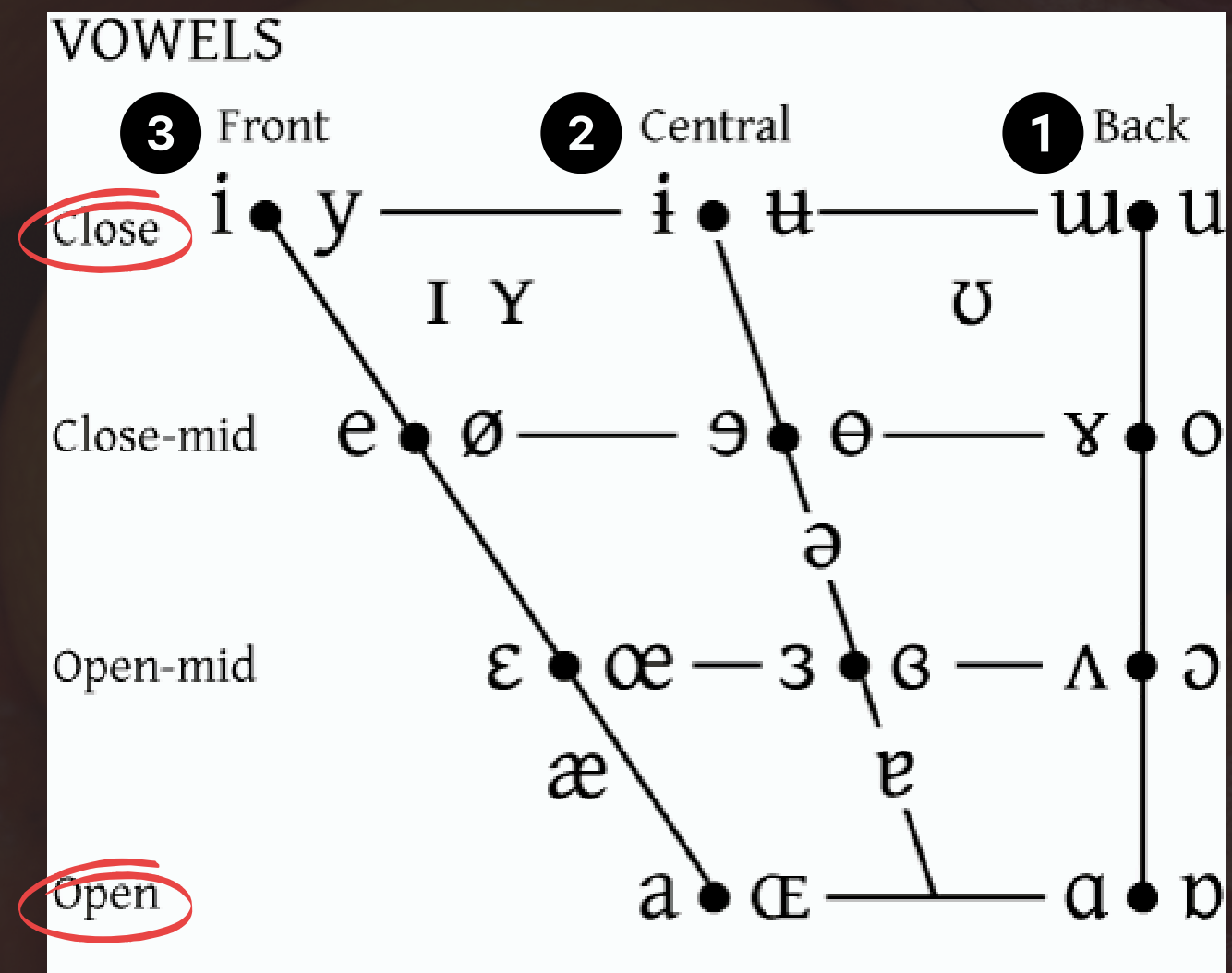
BETTER MUSICIANS

When you put all of these elements together, the main takeaway will be that your students are better musicians than when they walked into show choir in August.



1, 2, 3 - Open/Close

Simplified explanation for your students based on the shape and placement of IPA vowels.



Let's experiment!



Allow your students to trial and error different combos of placements and shapes. Make it fun, and guide them to WEIRD choices to start!

Example:

Waubonsie Valley Soundcheck
2013 Show: Simple Gifts



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_ZA4PT9nUM

100% COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

NOT LITERALLY 100%...BUT MORE THAN
YOU HAVE NOW!





MUSIC LITERACY IS DECLINING.

Public education's continued shuttering of music programs (especially at the elementary levels) means there are fewer people than ever who have a functional knowledge of music literacy.

Possibly as low as 21% of the population.

PEOPLE CAN'T LEARN IF THEY'RE NOT PRESENT.

Concerts and performances are more than just an opportunity to have your students show off what they've learned, it's an opportunity to expose our communities to a wide variety of musical styles, giving them a chance to expand their personal repertoire.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE AT ALL EVENTS RISES WITH POP EVENT ADDITIONS.

Many people, because they associate classical music (re: Western European art song and 20th Century choral music) with elitism, would not choose to be present at a traditional choral concert. Show Choir is a pathway for these community members to experience and appreciate ALL forms of choral singing.

Actual things said to me by family members of show choir students over the years.



MR. HOPPS

Booster Dad/Beer Distributer

"I'm so glad *Sally* is doing choir,
it's nice to just sit and listen to
something without my phone
sometimes!"



GRANDMA VICKI

Professional Critic of Everything

"These kids are less boring every time
I see them. Great job, Teach!"



LITTLE TOMMY

Lover of Basketball, and
ONLY basketball.

"Can I do the rock and roll show
and still play basketball? 'Cause
that looks fun!"

**Names have been changed in case any of my former students are
reading this and recognize a family member.**



Actual things said to me by family members of show choir students over the years.

When attending show choir events, family and friends are learning proper etiquette for live performing arts. Yes, clapping during a song is allowed in this art form and less appropriate in a concert setting - but that gives you a chance to address the norms in both settings!

Seeing something accessible like show choir makes them WANT to put their phones away, making it easier for them to focus when it's ANY form of performance art on that stage.

MR. HOPPS

Booster Dad/Beer Distributer

"I'm so glad *Sally* is doing choir, it's nice to just sit and listen to something without my phone sometimes!"

Are your performances getting "less boring?" Let's be real, they probably weren't boring to begin with. But the perception by G-ma Vicki was likely due to her continued exposure to the choral arts and music performances as a whole. The more often people are exposed to performing arts, the more they understand and appreciate it, and by adding an ensemble that often performs separate from other concerts, you're giving people a chance to up their "tolerance!" ;)

GRANDMA VICKI

Professional Critic of Everything

"These kids are less boring every time I see them. Great job, teach!"

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This is my favorite reason to diversify your choral portfolio. It's AWESOME recruitment for the middle schooler & younger. Younger siblings imprint on show choir and grow a desire to be a part of it that's hard to cultivate from simply concert performances. When little Tommy grows up and joins show choir, he'll join a concert organization as well, something that our basketball loving friend may not have done otherwise. And he will likely bring friends with him!

LITTLE TOMMY

Lover of Basketball, and ONLY basketball.

"Can I do the rock and roll show and still play basketball? 'Cause that looks fun!"

Example:

Mitchell Friend de Coup 2017 Show: Only Human

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcqjjcNcv8U>

100% CONNECTION

CONNECTION CREATES ART.





FROM THE STAGE...

The amount of time in rehearsal and style of work in show choir lends itself to bonding and teamwork in a way that is hard to replicate in other choral forms.

...TO THE LOVE

These students grow to love and respect each other as people and performers, which in turn creates a rehearsal space they can feel safe being vulnerable in.





VULNERABILITY = ART

VULNERABILITY is not
winning or losing. It's having the
courage to show up when you
can't control the outcome.

Brené Brown

Creative work feels false without it.



RETREAT ACTIVITIES THAT NOURISH THE SOUL

Full activity walk throughs can be found at
www.showcollective.com

LINK IN THE CHAIN

Kids connect with each other while they connect literal links of chain!

CARRYING THE BANNER

Decorate a twin/full size sheet with paint, as an ensemble, hang banner!

I AM MACHINE

Students connect to each other with movement!

HOUSE OF STONE

Grab a rock or two and sharpie your "rocks" on them!



RESOURCES FOR YOUR JOURNEY

The Art of Competitive Show Choir

by Jen Randall

(GIA Publishing, 2020)

Student Edition - Available soon!

SHOW COLLECTIVE

www.showcollective.com

PREACHING TO THE CHOIR - PODCAST

Available on Spotify and Apple - 3 seasons!

THE COLLECTIVE COHORT

Opens for registration every August and April!



Questions? Comments?
Dance Moves you want to show off?

LET'S MOVE!



Visit me on the interwebs!



WEBSITE

www.showcollective.com

Professional development for
show choir professionals.
In-person events, and digital
content to make your life simpler!



INSTAGRAM

My favorite way to share!

@showcollective
@msjenrandall



FACEBOOK

If you join the Collective Cohort,
we host a private show choir
group page for members!

@showcollective