

Working with Children's Choirs

Augsburg Fortress Workshop – Summer 2009

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A Whole Person Approach to Singing and Learning . . .

GOAL: to bring music to life through meeting, experiencing, and recreating the music with *the ears, the vocal mechanism, the body, the brain, the heart!*

Learning Styles (VAK)

Visual

eyes
observation
intellectual

Auditory

ears, vocal mechanism
aural and oral participation
intellectual +
interpretation +
expression

Kinesthetic

hands, feet, face, body
whole person participation
intellectual +
interpretation +
imagination +
expression

Vocal Mechanism

Power Sources + Oscillator + Resonators

Heavy and Light

Playground, Speaking, Whispering, Singing

Vowels

Place the tip of the tongue to the back (tip) of the lower teeth.

Sing "tall" vowels, sing vertically.

For pure vowels:

1. "ee" [i] – think "oo" and sing "ee" through "oo" shaped lips
2. "eh" [ε] – think about concluding the vowel sound with a "t" to aid in placement
3. "ah" [a] – arch the roof of the mouth with jaw relaxed in lowest position
4. "oh" [o] and "aw" [ɔ] – loose lips gently rounded away from the teeth
5. "oo" [u] – lips protrude away from the teeth

Vowel modification:

Sing more closed vowels on high pitches as high pitches require more space in the mouth and throat (thinking, "big" vowels rather than "high" notes)

Consonants

Sustaining Consonants

1. Singing (have pitch): V, Z, TH (the), ZH (treasure), L, M, N, NG,R
2. Sibilant (lack pitch): F, S, TH (think), SH

Non-sustaining Consonants

1. Voiced (sounded on the pitch of the vowel they accompany): B, D, G, J
2. Unvoiced (sounded quickly with a minimum of air): P, T, K, CH

Aspirate "H"

When "h" is the initial consonant ("hat"), sound the "h" quickly with a minimum of air

When "h" is the second consonant ("white"), shape lips for an "oo" and blow air out on "h"

Consonant "R"

1. In general, sing "r" before a vowel, but never before a consonant
2. The flipped "r" is sounded quickly by flipping the tip of the tongue against the upper gum ridge ("d" may be substituted for the flipped "r")

Scooping/Sliding

Most frequently occurs on the initial consonants: j, l, m, n, r, v, w, wh, and y