



RE-MEMBERING POST PANDEMIC: BEST PRACTICES FOR A NEW NORMAL

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MY EXPERIENCE




LESSONS FROM THE PANDEMIC

- During COVID, we have focused on all the things that limited us.
- But, COVID has also empowered us to be BETTER choir directors!
 - In terms of music ministry, what things about your teaching, your pedagogy, your planning, etc. has gotten BETTER?
 - What creative ways have you begun to implement technology that you'll keep doing?

COVID HAS CHANGED US AS MINISTRY LEADERS!

COVID HAS ALSO CHANGED YOUR CHOIR!





TEACH THE CHOIR YOU HAVE,
NOT THE CHOIR YOU WISH YOU
HAD!!!!

THINGS TO CONSIDER AS WE BRING MUSIC MINISTRY BACK....

DON'T RETURN TO
BUSINESS AS
USUAL

START FROM
SCRATCH, ASSUME
NOTHING

DECIDE WHAT IS
MOST IMPORTANT



RE-ENGAGE THE
REHEARSAL!

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a pen, poised to write on a sheet of music. The background is a solid blue color with faint, white circular patterns resembling a compass or a target. The text 'PLANNING IS IMPORTANT!' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters at the top right. Below it, a list of six bullet points is displayed in white text. The overall image conveys a sense of focus and preparation.

PLANNING IS IMPORTANT!

- Plan with HIGH STANDARDS.
- Knowing the music at surface level isn't enough.
- It takes discipline to plan.
- When you plan well, your rehearsal will flow better.
- The plan should be flexible (there's always the element of the unknown.)

REPERTOIRE SELECTION

- What is the purpose of this song?
- Is this theologically sound?
- Consider the liturgical calendar.
- Start Easy!



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SHAPING THE REHARSAL



Rehearsal should have a shape, like a phrase.



Warm-up!: Spend as much time as you feel is necessary. Post-pandemic, choirs need this time!

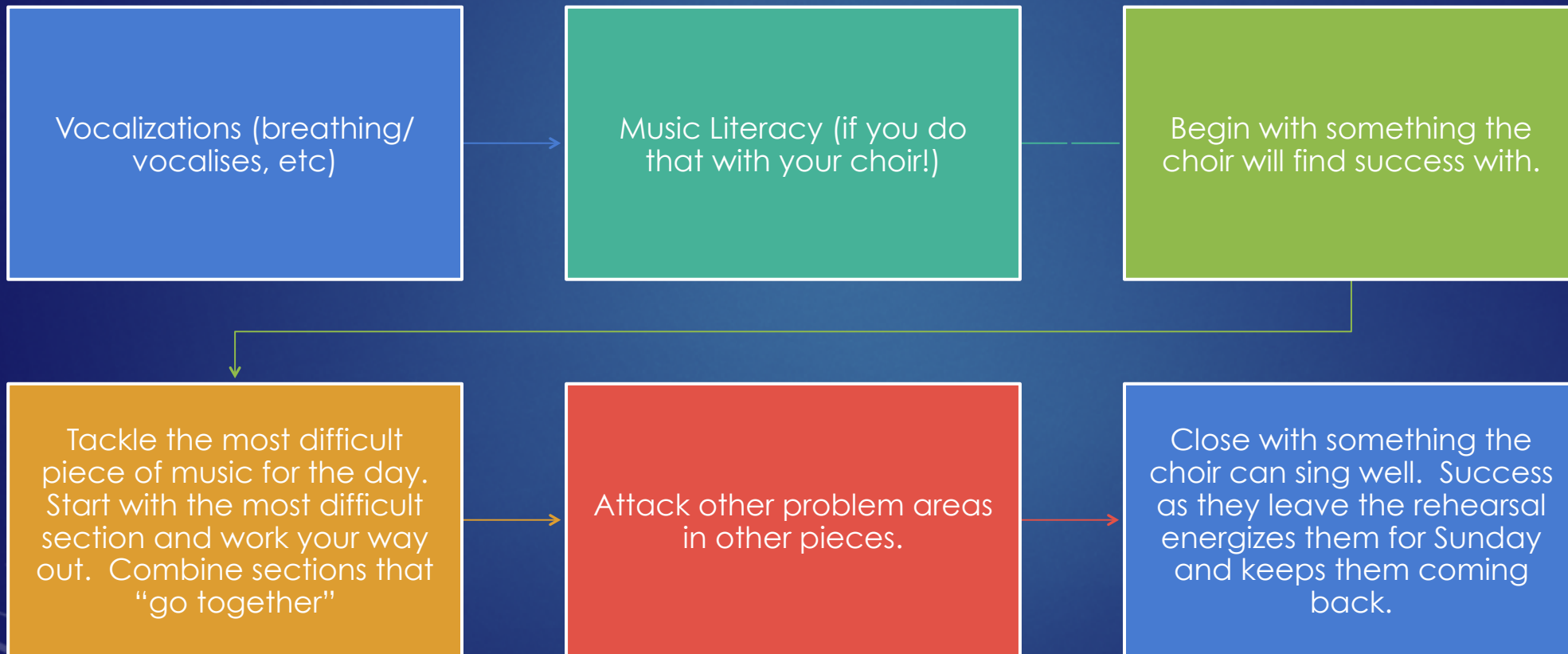


As we re-build, warm-ups could be longer than actual song rehearsal time (jacket on, jacket off 😊)



Teach a new skill! Introduce music literacy! Sight-Singing, little by little could be done in every rehearsal!

MURDOCK'S BEST PRACTICES FOR REHEARSAL





RE-ENGAGE THE
PHYSICAL BODY!



VOICE BUILDING: BREATHING

THE ENERGY OF THE BREATH IS
INTEGRAL TO HEALTHY GOSPEL SINGING

- No shallow, clavicular breathing
- The chest and shoulders shouldn't be moving
- Back and abdominal muscles expanded.
- Balloon; Bend over breathing
- Breathing Gym
- Dog pants
- Lip/tongue trills – (Bernoulli effect)



VOICE BUILDING: INTONATION

Intonation challenges are often related to poor vocal production.

Also weather, time of day, temperature/size of a room can impact intonation.

Exercise: Have one section stay on the same note, while another section descends.

VOICE BUILDING: WARM-UPS

- Warm-ups are purposeful and intentional.
- Warm-ups should compliment the repertoire.
- The success of the warm-up should be immediately observable.

Tempo di Minuetto



MUSIC LITERACY: YOUR CHOIR CAN SIGHTREAD, TOO!


- It's never too late to learn!
- Start with the song.
- Add the solfege.
- Introduce the written notation
- Transfer
- Sightread often to keep up the skill

TEACHING THE MUSIC

- Set expectations early
- Work on notes, rhythms, phrasing, and diction– all at once!
- When you stop the choir, address the issue clearly before repeating.

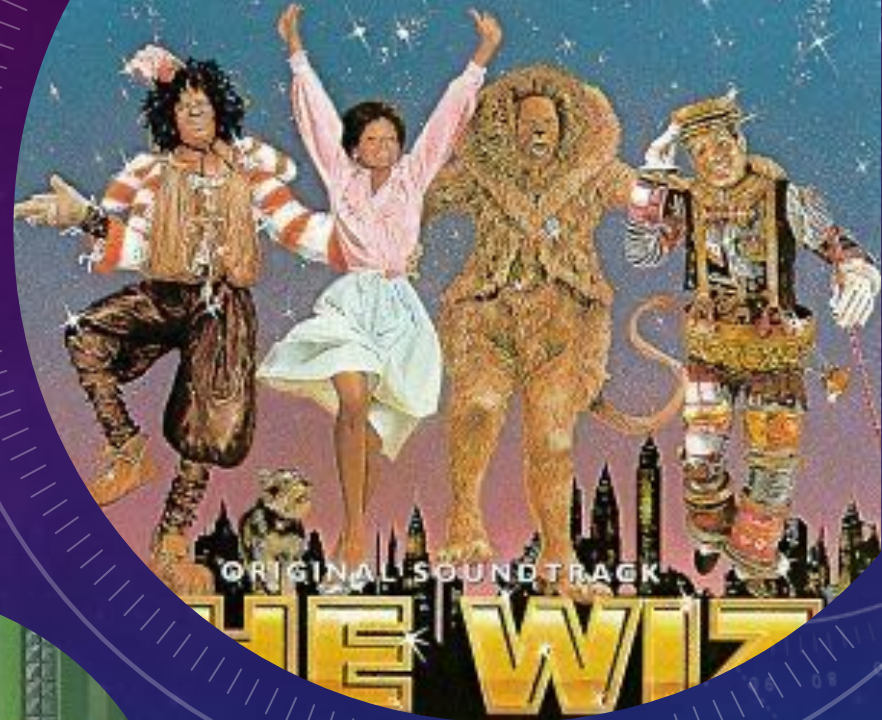


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HAD!!!!

**IT'S GOING TO BE TOUGH.....
BUT LET'S TAKE A LESSON
FROM THE WIZARD OF OZ!**



THANK YOU!

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