

Making Every Minute Count

Presentation by Teresa Granger M.M.Ed



1. Begin with good management of rehearsal time and space

- Director and workers need to be on time
- Seating chart for large group
- Sub-groups are pre-determined for small group work. (example-sharps, flats , naturals)
- If you do not know the children well, talk with the choir director from last year to learn about how some of the children might need to be grouped or arranged.

2. Choir rehearsal routines are established

At the beginning of the choir year the choir director teaches the children procedures for:

- How is music given out?
- What we do when we are finished using props such as scarves, streamers, etc.?
- Do the children have choir folders?
- What happens with instruments? Ex: Resting position (asleep)
- How do children change instruments from one activity to the next one?
- Early arriver groups and activities - how does that work?
- Signal responses can be used to change groups during small group time and early arrival group time.
- Echo-clapping to get the kids attention or quiet without having to raise your voice.

3. Have a well-planned rehearsal

- Director knows how much time he/she plans to spend on a particular activity or song remembering not to spend too much time on one thing.
- Use warm-ups and change of pace activities to teach choral skills needed for anthems. (Ex: "One Man Went to Mow)
- Vary the rehearsal with singing, listening, moving, and the playing of instruments.
- Have all instruments and materials accessible. (Ex: use tubs for early arriver and small group materials)
- Come early to prepare the room for the rehearsal.
- Meet with your choir workers ahead of time to make sure they know how to help in small group.
- Use props and other manipulatives to keep the kids actively engaged.

4. Make sure you have a rehearsal plan

- Written outline of choir rehearsal makes sure everything works well.
- Allows for director to see transitions and anticipate how the children will respond.
- Sample choir lesson plan formats.

5. Pacing is the key

- Change up the rehearsal time to include movement, fun songs, and the playing of instruments.
- Have a plan for all transitions.

6. Questions

Resource List for Alleluia Conference

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1. **Can't Wait to Sing** by Vicki Hancock Wright and Jeff Reeves
Choristers Guild CGC50
2. **Can't Wait to Sing** by Mark Patterson
Choristers Guild CGC54
3. **Choir Builders** by Rollo Dilworth
Hal Leonard HL09970913
4. **Choir Builders for Growing Voices** by Emily Crocker and Rollo Dilworth
Hal Leonard HL009971400
5. **52 Arrival Activities for Children's Choirs** by Ginger G. Wyrick
Abingdon Press ISBN0-687-07313-8
6. **Parachutes and Ribbons, and Scarves, Oh My!** By Artie Almeida
Heritage Music Press ISBN 978-1-4291-2104-0
7. **Sing Together Children** by Madeline Bridges
Choristers Guild CGBK66
8. **Tons of Fun** by Pamela Clampitt Vandewalker
Vision Publications BK1216
9. **Growing in Grace Children's Choir Curriculum**, "Be Strong In the Lord" Fall 2016