

Week 1 Reading Assignment

1. List the characteristics of your most inspiring choral teachers. (p.1)

My most inspiring choral teachers exuded a very charismatic personality, had patience, showed a genuine care for the students' learning, conducted clearly, used very engaging activities, and gave helpful motivation.

2. List your strengths and weaknesses as a choral teacher. (p.2)

My strengths include a strong keyboard background, a fair amount of patience, a calm demeanor. My weaknesses include a low energy level, lack of experience with students, soft-spoken personality, not much vocal training.

3. What are the choral compositions that you feel as special? Justify your choices. (p.2)

Handel's *Messiah* holds a special place, as it really celebrates Christ and holds a lot of the ideals of my life. It is also composed amazingly and has so many difficult and interesting vocal passages that are still held to a very high standard in the present day. I also really love the choral-style hymns in hymnals; they have a very grand and timeless tone, and I also really enjoy the poetic and meaningful writing within the lyrics.

4. Write a summary of all of your experiences in choral music, and explain why these experiences have led you to the point of studying choral music education. (BT 1-4: p.19)

During elementary school, I participated in community choirs for around five years, but once my voice began to change, I moved from being in a choir to being part of various orchestras. I have had the opportunity to be an accompanist for various vocal performances, especially my mother, who began taking vocal lessons during my middle school years. I have had the chance to accompany both soloists and choirs, and to this day, I am still helping out as an accompanist in a community choir and frequently assist a vocal teacher with accompanying her students. I am fascinated by the differences between teaching instrumental and choral groups, and I believe that learning about choral education will also assist in my ability as an instrumentalist and an instrumental instructor.

5. Outline an action plan for strengthening your weaker areas, beginning today. Include: (a) Area of Study (b) Action Plan (c) Time Line (d) Assessment. (BT 1-5 p.19-20)

| Area of Study | Action Plan | Time Line | Assessment |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vocal Technique | Take time to practice warmups and work on a vocal piece on a daily basis. Take a lesson and read up on different warmups and techniques. | 10 Weeks | Record and send to peers or a teacher throughout the weeks for feedback. |
| Choral Experience | Find a choir to be a part of or observe rehearsals. | 10 Weeks | Journal my experiences and look back on them at the end of the quarter. |
| Energy Level | Take more time to observe myself and figure out ways to be more engaging and interactive. | 10 Weeks | List out observations and note differences as time passes. |