I'm not a bot



When preparing your choir for success in rehearsal, a good vocal warm-up is essential. These warm-ups should be simple and enjoyable, allowing you to loosen up the whole body and voice before singing. You can start by doing some neck and head rolls, then move on to lip trills or other exercises that get the air moving with minimal effort. This will help fight congestion and prepare your singers for good singing. In addition, try incorporating movement into your warm-ups, such as swaying, clapping, marching, or stomping. You can also use "speech to song" warm-ups, like a "call and response" exercise where you play with short phrases in head voice and character voices. Vowels are also important, as they need to blend well among the singers. Try some arpeggios or exercises that involve singing through each vowel, while keeping the pitch steady. To make your rehearsal more engaging, try incorporating fun elements like silly phrases or tongue twisters into your warm-ups. Creativity is key when it comes to warming up your choir. With a little practice and experimentation, you can find the perfect warm-ups for your group and get them energized and ready to perform. Looking forward to seein everyone at the meeting tomorow and discussin our strategies, I have used these in my time as a choir teacher and voice class teacher. A lot of these fun warm-ups break the ice for your choir, reveal cool harmonies, make you really think, or just let you enjoy the beauty of two complimentary lines.I can't guarantee that you will like all of them, but hopefully you can find a few fun ones to add your usual warm-up list.These warm-ups are great for individuals who take voice lessons, for small groups, and for large choirs, too! So, really everyone.There is a classic warm-up that I don't even remember where I learned it. I just know I've known it pretty much all of my choir days. It like this one for its zingy quality, the ability to add some physical actions to it, and how it helps keep your voice resonating towards the front of your face.This may be considered a slight tongue-twister type warm-up at first, but in it really is just using the same word on different notes each sequence.The confused looks and laughter at the first few attempts are sure to make for a good time while warming up. Trust me, you'll get it!I knew this song before I bought a canon warm-up book, but it still is fun. It sort of reminds me of a Sound of Music and Heidi mixed together.While this works well for practicing range and stretching your vocal chords, it can be sung with a choir for a delightful canon, too! Just start the second part after "I love the rolling hills" and you will be good!I originally found this on YouTube, I believe.Talk about fun! If you have a group of people who are very comfortable with holding their own, this is a great warm-up. In addition, it will support your teaching of solfege and sight-singing if you choose to go this route and practice with a little ear training/sight singing while warming up.Win/win for all of us music teacher geeks who like to get things done while having a good time.Kind of a joyful song to sing to remind us of all the happy things in life. Which is what the purpose of music is in most cases, in my opinion.So enjoy learning and using this to warm-up next time! It can be used as a canon, too.This is a call and response warm-up, so you will need at least two people. The best way to learn is to have the teacher teach everyone, and then have those who feel comfortable start leading the call for others to respond.In the case of a church choir, this would be excellent practice for a cantor to incite the call for the "congregation" to respond.Hope my little girl isn't too distracting 😀 It was the only way to keep her quiet. Gotta love 'em!The best part about this warm-up is that you can literally substitute "chumbara" with any three syllable word. Imagine the possibilities. I know because I did this with Middle School and High School.You could come up with the most crazy or the best words you want, within your best judgment, of course.I dare you not to laugh at this one! It is great as an ascending warm-up or for a canon again. Canons are super popular but oh so fun for testing if one has the confidence and ability to stick to their part.Really, if any warm-up makes you go "huh?", "what?", you've got a great learning piece. On top of that, you want to look for ones that make you laugh while you attempt to sing them with a straight face.Warm-ups that pair two or more different melodies together.I love these for when you are learning polyphony and need to practice singing two different lines with different rhythms and times like that. These fun warm-ups provide a fantastic lead-in to those types of music.This fun warm-up is great for practicing a we speed up! 3. Yes / No Game This is a great way to get brains going while practicing or introducing particular melodic or rhythmic phrases. The conductor sings (or chants, if you want to just focus on rhythm) a short phrase, and the choir echoes it back. BUT the choir has to use the opposite of the words the conductor uses, so if the conductor sings "yes, yes, no, no, yes", then the choir sings back "no, no, yes, yes, no". I always start this by sticking with just one word or the other, but it can get pretty crazy once you start mixing them up (as in the example above)! When the pattern I was aiming for comes up in rehearsal, I'll have them echo it with yes/no again to remind them and then practice the phrase in the music- they'll quickly recognize the connection! 4. Excerpts This is similar to my last warm-up example, but taking a short excerpt from a piece to introduce or practice a specific element is another great warm-up. Unless the lyrics in that phrase happen to be really interesting (or I'm specifically working on the diction etc), I'll often change the words to something silly, and then repeat it going chromatically up each time. Then when the targeted excerpt comes up in rehearsal, if they are struggling, I'll point out what we did in the warm-up and the light bulbs go off! That's it for my favorite warm-ups for beginning children's choirs. What are your favorites? I'd love to hear them in the comments below! If you want to read more about my elementary choir rehearsal procedures, check out this post. Want to get free curriculum resources, tips, and updates sent straight to your inbox? Click here to sign up for the Organized Chaos newsletter! It's all about finding that perfect balance - raising those eyebrows, angling your smile, and adjusting your posture to get the most out of every rehearsal. Try reaching down to touch those toes or stretching up towards the ceiling - take a deep breath in and let it all out. Clap along with an echo effect or follow the leader through some fun four-beat patterns. But what really makes these exercises stand out is the way you can turn them into games. Mix things up from session to session, add some musical flair like dynamics or phrasing, and make sure everyone's got enough space to shine without feeling overwhelmed. It's all about creating a vibe that keeps everyone engaged and energized. Now, let's talk about breathing exercises - it's time to get your body ready for those powerful notes. Take a few minutes each rehearsal to explore different techniques, like long slow breaths or blowing out candles (we're talking catch breaths and vocal attacks here). You can even combine them with stretches and posture exercises to really get that diaphragm working. And then there are noises - all about waking up those vocals and accessing all the right registers. Try some lip trills, sighs, sirens, or roller-coaster patterns - the possibilities are endless! And don't forget to incorporate some tongue twisters or repeated words to keep things interesting. Finally, let's talk about vocal warm-up exercises for choir. This is where it all comes together - take a few minutes each rehearsal to get those voices warmed up and ready to go. It might seem like a lot, but trust us, it makes all the difference when you're ready to rock out with your choir. These types of exercises will help your choristers strengthen their voices while developing flexibility, precision, and tone quality. Pure vowels, carefully chosen words for diction, specific vocal techniques, blending exercises, placement, tone, and musicality are all skills that can be incorporated into these exercises. There are hundreds of useful exercises available, with endless variations to try out. The key is to tailor the exercises to your choir's strengths and weaknesses, as well as their repertoire selections and age level. I like to start with head voice exercises in midrange (A, G, or F) using descending patterns with light sounds at first and increasing volume and tone towards the end. Unison exercises are often used for these types of exercises, but I may build them into structured chords later on. I prefer descending five-note patterns, ascending/descending five-note patterns, or octaves +1, arpeggios, outlining chord progressions, and cadences. When choosing vocalises, it's essential to incorporate phrasing, dynamics, shaping, and clarity of pure vowel blend. Demonstration and repetition are the best practices here. Listening to the blend around them – between sections and within their own section – is a great focus for these exercises. This helps choristers practice forming pure vowels, messa di voces, and tuning of chords, all valuable skills for ensemble singing. Some basic exercises include building blocks of chords in any key for four-part choirs, ascending or descending by half steps. Exploring dynamics and messa di voces can be done by watching the conductor, with students taking turns directing some portions. Unison "ooo" vowel exercises involve starting the choir in prime unison, then gradually moving them by section using half steps, whole steps, skips, etc. Using solfege and hand signs while singing solfeggio exercises is also an excellent idea. Teaching choristers to use diatonic and chromatic hand signs while understanding keys, tonal relationships, and intervals will help create a concrete application for these skills. I like to use ascending and descending diatonic scales in major or minor, with sections stopping on specific scale steps to create chord structures. Structuring your warm-up time in each rehearsal can be a fun and creative process for you while bringing excitement and focus to the beginning of each of your rehearsals. Try to hit one or two exercises from each family of exercises at every rehearsal for a total of about five to seven minutes. Recognize that you may need to spend more or less time than this based on the time of day or age of your choir members. But the main thing to remember is to keep it fun, flexible, functional and fresh. Help your students build their voices and improve their musicality with a fun and productive warm-up time at each and every rehearsal! Looking forward to everyone laughing and bonding over their shared love of music Guess the Song To take the 'Name That Tune' icebreaker to the next level, switch things up by having choir members take turns singing a line from a song while the others try to guess the title. This variation allows for more creativity and participation from everyone in the group. It also helps build confidence in singing solo lines and can uncover hidden talents within the choir. The 'Guess the Song' activity is not only a great icebreaker but also a wonderful way to introduce new music to the group. It can spark conversations about different genres, artists, and musical styles. This interactive game is a perfect blend of fun and learning, making it a valuable addition to any choir practice session. Vocal Warm-ups Obviously, warming up your voice before choir practice is essential to ensure everyone is ready to sing together in harmony. Vocal warm-ups not only prepare your voice for the singing ahead but also help in building team spirit among choir members. In this chapter, we will explore some fun and effective vocal warm-ups that will help harmonize new voices in your choir. Scale Singing The key to a successful choir practice is ensuring that everyone is in tune and on the same pitch. Scale singing is a great way to warm up your vocal cords and practice hitting different notes within a scale. Start by singing simple scales like do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do, gradually increasing the range and speed as you go along. This exercise not only helps in vocal agility but also in pitch accuracy, which is crucial for a harmonious performance. Tongue Twisters The key to clear and crisp singing is having good diction, and what better way to practice than with tongue twisters! Tongue twisters are fun phrases that are challenging to pronounce, making them perfect for warming up your articulation and enunciation. Try saying phrases like "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers" or "She sells seashells by the seashore" multiple times before singing to loosen up your tongue and lips. Scale singing helps in warming up vocal cords, whereas tongue twisters focus on articulation and diction, ensuring that every choir member's voice is clear and understandable during the performance. Tongue twisters are a great way to kick off choir practice with laughter and camaraderie, as members challenge each other to say the phrases faster and clearer. These exercises not only break the ice but also set a light-hearted tone for the rest of the practice session. Musical Chairs While icebreakers are essential for creating a welcoming and inclusive environment during choir practice, musical chairs is a classic game that can also serve as a fun icebreaker activity. This familiar game adds an element of movement and excitement to the practice session, setting a light-hearted tone for the rehearsal. Circle of chairs An empty circle of chairs in the center of the rehearsal space sets the stage for a lively round of musical chairs. As the music plays, singers walk around the circle of chairs. When the music stops, everyone rushes to find a chair to sit in. The twist? There is always one fewer chair than there are participants, creating a sense of friendly competition as singers scramble to secure a seat. An upbeat song sets the tempo for the game, with singers laughing and cheering each other on as they navigate the musical chairs. This activity not only encourages movement and interaction but also fosters a sense of camaraderie among choir members as they engage in a spirited game together. Music dictates movement On the flip side, music can also be used to dictate movement in a more structured icebreaker activity. By playing different genres or styles of music, choir members can be prompted to move in certain ways, such as dancing, swaying, or clapping, in response to the music. This not only warms up their bodies but also helps them connect to the music on a physical level. Music dictates the rhythm and pace of the movement, creating a fun and dynamic way for singers to engage with the music before diving into rehearsal. This interactive approach helps break the ice and encourages everyone to get involved in the practice session. loose and enjoy the music, setting an energetic and positive tone for the rest of the practice. Now lets explore a popular icebreaker game that can bring some fun and laughter to your choir practice – Two Truths and a Lie. This game is perfect for breaking the ice and getting to know each other better. Share personal facts Share two true statements about yourself and one false statement with the rest of the group. This can be a great way to open up and share some personal facts that others may not know about you. Its a chance to show some personality and create connections with your fellow choir members. Share stories or experiences that are unique to you, giving others a glimpse into your life outside of choir practice. This can help build camaraderie and strengthen relationships within the group. Identify the fib Facts can be funny or serious, and the challenge lies in identifying which statement is false. After each member shares their facts, the group can take turns guessing which one is the lie. Its a lighthearted way to test your observational skills and learn more about each other. For instance, someone might share that they have traveled to five different countries, can speak three languages fluently, and have a pet parrot named Mango. As the group tries to guess the lie, they learn more about the person behind the facts and have a good time bonding over shared experiences. Choir Karaoke Your choir practice just got a whole lot more exciting with Choir Karaoke! This fun activity is a great way to break the ice and get everyone singing in harmony. Whether youre a seasoned pro or a first-time soloist, Choir Karaoke has something for everyone to enjoy. Solo performance On the spotlight is you! Solo performance is your time to shine as you pick a song of your choice and serenade the choir with your vocal prowess. Dont be shy – let your voice soar and show off your unique musical style. Its a fantastic opportunity to showcase your talent and build confidence in a supportive and encouraging environment. On top of that, solo performances can help you practice your stage presence and improve your singing skills. So grab the microphone, take a deep breath, and get ready to wow your choir mates with your performance! Group guess On your marks, get set, guess! Group guess is a thrilling game where the choir divides into teams to guess the song being performed by a soloist. Its a fun way to test your knowledge of music and bond with your fellow choir members. As you listen to the soloist, put your heads together with your team and try to figure out the song title and artist before the time runs out. Plus, Group guess adds an element of friendly competition to your choir practice, making it a lively and engaging experience for everyone involved. Get ready to have a blast guessing tunes and showcasing your musical knowledge with Choir Karaoke's Group guess! Pitch Match Learning to match pitch is an essential skill for any choir singer. It forms the foundation for harmony and ensures that all voices blend seamlessly. By working on pitch matching during choir practice, singers can improve their intonation and overall sound quality. Listen to note Any choir member can learn to match pitch by actively listening to the notes being sung by others. When the choir director plays a note or sings a pitch, focus on listening carefully and internalizing the sound. Pay attention to the subtle variations in pitch, especially when singing in harmony with others. This will help develop your ear for pitch and improve your ability to match tones accurately. Another helpful exercise is to practice matching pitch with a partner. Stand facing each other and take turns singing a note. Listen closely to each other's pitches and adjust until you are in harmony. This interactive approach not only improves pitch matching skills but also fosters a sense of camaraderie among choir members. Repeat pitch An effective way to practice pitch matching is by repeating the same note multiple times. Start by singing a pitch played by the choir director or a designated pitch pipe. Repeat the note several times, focusing on consistency paraphrased text here Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting tomorrow and discussing our strategies is just one example of how singers can work together on songs, exploring partner songs where each section sings different lyrics that complement each other. This encourages singers to pay attention to both the lyrics they are singing and those being sung by the opposite section, fostering a sense of teamwork and musical awareness. To add depth and complexity to your choir's repertoire, try incorporating rounds into your practices. Rounds involve different groups or individuals starting the same piece of music at different times, creating a captivating layered effect. This not only challenges singers to stay focused on their own part but also helps them understand the importance of rhythm and timing in creating a cohesive musical experience. Singin' in round can be a very rewarding experience that builds vocal confidence but also fosters a sense of unity and collaboration within the group. Finaly, icebreakers are an essential tool during choir practice to help new voices feel comfortable and harmonize with the group. By incorporating these fun activities, choir directors can create a welcoming and inclusive environment that encourages singers to express themselves and build connections with one another. When it comes to choirs, feburary can be a bit of a challange. It's cold, there aren't many days off and it's an entire month until spring break. To break up the monotony, I wanted to provide some fun, engaging choir warm-ups to break up the usual routine and keep your singers energized and focused. One of my favret warm-ups is 4 Beats After Me. This gets students focused on the director, keeping the beat, and on task. You can get very creative with the motions and have students lead the warm-up! Scotland's Burning is a great round to work on vowels, octave jumps, and diction. I've done this activity with my choir and it was very helpful. Another fun one is Dum Dum Song. This activity helps with skips and harmonic perception. It has many different variants and can be done in a round, pitches muted or at different speeds. My students enjoy making up new motions to add to the song. It's also very good for the brain break. Football times is another great focus brain break that the boys on the football team especially like. Incorporating fun exercises like sevens into daily routines can be beneficial for students. By dividing these activities into manageable sections, teachers can make them more accessible. Some classes even hold competitions to see who can complete the exercises quickly. These warm-ups are not limited to any age group and can be tailored to suit individual needs. Engaging with choir members through fun activities can create a sense of unity among singers. Hosting kick-off parties or retreats is an excellent way to celebrate the start of a new season, welcome new members, and get a head start on music selection. A well-planned event should include fellowship opportunities, laughter, and icebreakers. For example, choosing familiar songs for icebreaker activities can be a fun way to promote teamwork and relaxation. Researchers suggest that adults learn better when they're relaxed, so incorporating simple exercises like these at the beginning of an event can set the stage for success in the rehearsal segment.

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