

ONLINE APPENDIX: Interview Protocol

Exploring the Experience of Coordination in Choral Singing

1. Introductory Questions

- a. Can you each please state your name and your vocal part?
- b. I've only been in the Musical Chorus for the past two seasons. How long have you been in the choir?
- c. There are many reasons for joining a choir. Can you describe for me how and why you became a member of this choir, and why you continue to sing with the Musical Chorus? I know there's probably a really long story here, but I'd love to know just a high-level story on how you became involved.

2. Let's pretend that I am a perfect stranger, who has never sung in a choir before. Can you tell me, from your own perspective and in as much detail as possible, what is going on while the choir is singing? I am interested in what you are doing, what the other people around you are doing, and especially in what you are thinking and feeling.

- a. **What is going on in beautiful moments?** I'm particularly interested in what you might be experiencing or doing when the choir is making beautiful music. Think for a minute about a time when you felt that the choir was making beautiful music. With that in mind, can you describe that experience to me in as much detail as possible?
- b. What were you experiencing during that time? Was this during a rehearsal or during a performance? What kind of music was it? What were you thinking and feeling during that time?
- c. Were you focused on anything in particular at the time? For example, were you focused on the members of your own section, the other sections, the director, your

score, the orchestral sound? Are there other things that you may have been focused on?

- d. What sorts of words would you use to describe how you felt at the time? What made the experience feel the way it did: your reaction to something in particular, others' reactions, the characteristics of the piece, the conductor?
- e. REHEARSAL: Where/How did other singers, the conductor, and/or the accompanist all come into play? PERFORMANCE: Where/How did other vocalists, the conductor, and/or the orchestra all come into play?
- f. (If reported . . .) What let/How did you know that everyone else "got it" or "clicked" or was "on track"?
- g. (If reported . . .) What made the rehearsal feel like time passed quickly or that it was interesting or fun? (or other descriptions of feeling) Was there a certain point in time in the piece that you felt like this, several different times, or did this last for the entire piece? How did/what made this experience end?
- h. **What's going on in poor-quality moments?** What about when a performance [felt like it] went really poorly? Can you describe what that was like?
- i. Was this during a rehearsal or during a performance? What kind of music was it? What were you experiencing during that time? What were you thinking and feeling during that time?
- j. Were you focused on anything in particular at the time? For example, were you focused on the members of your own section, the other sections, the director, your score, the orchestral sound? Are there other things that you may have been focused on?

- k. What sorts of words would you use to describe how you felt at the time? What made the experience feel the way it did: your reaction to something in particular, others' reactions, the characteristics of the piece, the conductor?
 - l. REHEARSAL: Where/How did other singers, the conductor, and/or the accompanist all come into play? PERFORMANCE: Where/How did other vocalists, the conductor, and/or the orchestra all come into play?
 - m. (If reported . . .) What made the rehearsal feel like time passed quickly or that it was interesting or fun? (or other descriptions of feeling) Was there a certain point in time in the piece that you felt like this, several different times, or did this last for the entire piece? How did/what made this experience end?
- 3. Can you describe a time when you were performing well/not so well, but the choir was having a poor/good performance? (What happened? What was that like?)
 - 4. So we've been talking about your experience in a rehearsal/performance/rehearsal and performance. Are there differences between rehearsal and performance for you? Can you describe them to me?
 - a. Does this change the experience for you between rehearsal and performance?
 - b. Can you describe for me how rehearsals change or progress over time from the first time we pick up the score to the week of performance? What happens differently and what stays the same across rehearsals?
 - 5. I am really interested in learning more about your own singing as part of a section in a choir. I suspect it is quite different to sing together with others than to sing alone. Overall, can you describe your experience singing with the other members of your

vocal section? What are you thinking and feeling when you sing with the (basses/altos/tenors/sopranos)?

- a. How does your own singing contribute to the overall quality of the sound?
 - b. Are there particular people that you like to sing next to? Why is this the case?
How do they influence your own singing?
 - c. While singing, who or what do you listen to most closely? Do you pay attention to the individuals near to you, or to the overall sound that you hear from other sections, or the choir?
 - d. What particular qualities of the sound do you think you influence, if any (e.g., volume, pitch, enunciation, rhythm, etc.)?
 - e. How does your own singing contribute to the sound of your section?
 - f. How do you think *you* contribute to the performance of other sections (in terms of tonality, pitch, rhythm, and volume) by your singing?
 - g. How does the sound of your section influence your singing (in terms of tonality, pitch, rhythm, volume, and expressiveness)?
 - h. Does your own vocal part provide a certain quality to the overall sound/influence the other sections?
 - i. How do the contributions of the other sections (in terms of tonality, pitch, rhythm, volume, and expressiveness) influence your singing?
 - j. Do you think the seating arrangement of the sections affects your singing? If yes, then how so? Or why not?
6. Can you draw me a map of the rehearsal room and indicate where you would normally sit/stand during rehearsal? (use a check mark)

- a. Can you also point out other places in the room where there might be people or objects that influence how you sing? Anyone and anything may be important for your singing in the choir.
 - b. How do these particular people or objects influence your singing?
 - c. Where/what are you focused on at times when rehearsal is going well/not so well?
- 7. The director/conductor is responsible for a number of things in the choir. Does he influence your singing? How?
 - a. Can you describe your experiences with previous choir directors? How are these experiences similar and/or different from those with our conductor?
 - b. Were these experiences in audition, rehearsal, or performance?
- 8. You've mentioned several things that you (don't) enjoy about singing with the Musical Chorus. Can you describe other things that you (don't) enjoy about singing with the Musical Chorus?
- 9. Is there anything else that you would like to share with me that we did not have a chance to cover?