

Week 1: History of Choral Music Education

- Decker, Chapter 1
- Lecture: History of choral music in the United States; F. Melius Christiansen and the St. Olaf Choir
- What is choral curriculum?
- General vocal/choral pedagogy
- Assignment: Write a one-page statement of your philosophy of choral music education and what you think your students should know when they leave your program.

Week 2: Score Preparation

- Decker, Chapter 5
- Haasemann, Chapters 2-3
- Lecture on pedagogical symbols to assist in rehearsal strategies
- Knowledge of score
- Conducting techniques used for particular style
- Performance practice/history
- Needs of ensemble/trouble spots
- Assignment: Come to class with your chosen piece outlined. Have the score prepared according to the lecture.

Week 3: Planning a Rehearsal

- Decker, Chapter 2
- Jordan/Choral, Chapters 2-3
- Lecture: Focus on foundational concept to be stressed in rehearsal. How to apply to all elements of rehearsal from warm-up to full-section
- Warm-ups
- Objectives
- Integration of sight-singing
- Techniques for lesson planning
- Demo lesson
- Brainstorming and sharing
- Assignment: Based on pieces that college ensemble will be rehearsing, create a 15-minute warm-up session that will focus on the fundamental skills needed for that rehearsal.

Week 4: WARM-UP PRACTICUM WITH COLLEGE ENSEMBLE

- Post-discussion of warm-up experience

Week 5: Sight-Singing

- Demorest, Chapters 1-3
- Lecture: Building sight-singing into rehearsal. Presentation of games and brainstorming session of new game ideas.
- Integration into lesson concepts and techniques
- Games
- Outline of lesson with sight-singing focus
- Assignment: With partner, create two sight-singing games to present in class.

Week 6: Mock sessions with feedback of Sight-Singing lessons

Week 7: SIGHT-SINGING PRACTICUM WITH UPPER ELEMENTARY CHOIR

Post-discussion of sight-singing experience

Week 8: Repertoire Week

- Decker, Chapter 3
- Lecture: Children's choir: history and repertoire, challenges, successful programs
- Women's and men's choirs
- Assignment: Arrange a SATB piece for either mens or womens choir (or SAB)

Week 9: Voicings and the Changing Voice

- Decker, Chapter 4
- Lecture: The Changing voice: Physiological events, pedagogical thoughts and repertoire suggestions
- Lecture: How to keep all of the sections involved when faced with a variety of levels of ability within one ensemble.
- Works with instrumentation
- Assignment: Arrange an organ accompaniment part for an ensemble of at least four players. Present a chosen piece and explain part assignments based on voice development.

Week 10: Mock sessions with feedback on junior-high lesson plans

Week 11: PRACTICUM WITH JUNIOR HIGH CHOIR

Week 12: Planning, Organizing and Budgeting

- Guest Panel: Three local music teachers will come to discuss organizing, planning and budgeting ideas
- Outline of the year: goals, concerts, repertoire
- Calendar: how long does it take to rehearse for a performance?
- Budgets
- Assignment: Develop mock calendar/outline and handbook for your class.

Week 13: Auditions and Voice Placement

- Robinson, Chapters 4 & 6
- Lecture: Musical Theatre
- Show Choir and Vocal Jazz
- Recruitment, Fundraising and Building a program
- Assignment: Write introductory letter for your first job. Present five fundraising ideas to the class

Week 14: Conducting masterclass on prepared piece

- Jordan/Evoking, Chapters 7-8

Week 15: Preparation for final practicum

- Full written analysis of chosen piece to present to the class
- Appropriate warm-up that correlates with the piece
- Integration of sight-singing

FINAL EXAM: PRACTICUM WITH HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

Reference Materials

Decker, Harold and Julius Herford. Choral Conducting Symposium. 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1988.

Demorest, S.M. Building Choral Excellence: Teaching Sight-Reading in the Choral Rehearsal. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Haasemann, Frauke and James Jordan. Group Vocal Technique. Chapel Hill, NC: Hinshaw Music, Inc., 1991.

Jordan, James. Evoking Sound: Fundamentals of Choral Conducting and Rehearsing. Chicago: GIA Publications, 1996.

_____. Evoking Sound: The Choral Warm-up. Chicago: GIA Publications, 2005.

Robinson, Ray and Allen Winold. The Choral Experience: Literature, Materials and Methods. New York: Harper and Row, 1976.