

Art of Application
Kim Wonders
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Key message: Make a commitment to follow through.

Stress to chorus how important it is to have 100% attendance.

Know the music you're going to work on and make sure that each member has completely learned all the notes and words.

Before coaching:

- Tell the coach what you want and expect from her/him.
- Ask all members to listen and retain as much as possible from the session and to remain open minded and flexible.
- Ask all members to arrive in enough time to be unhurried and adequately warmed up before the scheduled coaching session.
- Provide a good working situation and environment where it is quiet and there are no distractions.
- Realistic expectations for the coaching session. Have some!
- Keep in mind that coaching is not an "instant fix" but rather means to long term growth.
- If possible, make arrangements for someone to audio record or videotape the coaching session. This will enable the visual performance of the chorus to be evaluated as well as the vocal.
- Everyone knows the right notes and words!!

During the coaching session

- Be able to stop and start quickly at various points within the song.
- Ask the members to save questions and comments; let the coach experiment.
- Maintain a positive attitude; don't make excuses.
- Enjoy each other and your music!
- **Chorus member responsibilities**
 1. Tape the session
 2. Mark music during the session
 3. Make notes, write down specific things the coach says that may pertain to your section. *We want to recreate the success.*
- **Director/Assistant Director**
 1. Tape the coaching session
 2. Supply the coach with clean copies of music.
 3. Make notes, or have a music team member, take copious notes.
 - a. Have someone take notes right on the music.
 - b. Scan for members with title of coach and date.
 4. Talk with coach following session, clarifying any new techniques or skills the coach has introduced.
 5. Let the coach **coach!**

Following the coaching session

- **Chorus Member Responsibility**

1. Listen to the recording and focus on sections where changes in interpretation and notes took place, as well as new singing skills that were introduced at the session.
2. Look over notes written on music from the session.
3. Go over notes from director
4. Come to rehearsals prepared to implement the changes from the coaching session.
5. Tape rehearsals and yourself every week to make sure you are solidifying the new interpretation, note changes and singing skills from the session to keep from holding chorus back.

- **Director Responsibility**

1. Listen to the recordings
 2. Type up notes or comments from the coach
 3. Share your notes with the chorus as soon as possible
 4. Give positive reinforcement
 5. Plan the next several rehearsals incorporating any new warm-ups, skills/instruction from the coach in each rehearsal.
 6. Review your notes with your music every week
 7. Record your rehearsals every week and listen to them to monitor coaching session goals and improvements in the chorus.
 8. Play a portion of coaching session for the chorus at the next rehearsal so they can hear what they sounded like when the coach was there.
- The buck stops here! Communicate expectations. The members want to get it right as much as you do. It is the director's responsibility to follow through with the skills and techniques that are learned at a coaching session
 - You have to set the tone and the expectation that you will follow up on coaching and that you need everyone's help.
 - Having a coach can be very beneficial to the chorus and the director. With the chorus and the director working together you can produce the sound you had when the coach was there and you can maintain the excitement and energy you had during the coaching session. The journey is more successful and rewarding when we work together!