

**Knowing What and Knowing How
Region 22 Director's Workshop
Kim Wonders**

May 20 & 21, 2011

To be a successful director you need to know your strengths and weaknesses. Rank yourself, on a scale of 1-10 (1=lowest, 10= highest), in each of the following categories to see where your areas of strengths and weaknesses are:

Directing Skills (10)

Analytical Listening (10)

Organizational Knowledge & Director Resources (10)

Teaching Skills (10)

Management Skills (10)

Judging Categories & Competition (10)

Vocal Production (10)

Music Theory (10)

Communication Skills (10)

Rehearsal Planning & Implementation (10)

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Attributes of a Good Director

On a scale of 1-5 (1 = lowest, 5 = highest), rate yourself in each of the following categories. This will help you in your self-evaluation process.

- 1. Director/Singer Rapport _____
- 2. Diagnosis and Prescription _____
- 3. Specificity of language

- 4. Efficient use of time _____
- 5. Measurable results _____
- Total** _____

Listening Hierarchy

Overriding factors: choice of material; structure of music, breathing patterns, vocal production

Focus on items one at a time in order of priority

Vocal Skills

- Posture
- Breathing
- Phonation
- Resonation
- Articulation

Note & Words

Accuracy

- Tuning/Intervals
- Part/Chord Balance
- Blend
- Resonance
- Vowel Match

Phrasing/Interpretation/Dynamic Plan

Tempo/Rhythm/Pulse

Synchronization/Unity

Energy

Artistry & Finesse

Visual Considerations

- Unit Moves
- Characterization
- Physical Energy
- Vocal/Visual Congruency

What Makes a Good Chorus Director?

- Good directors must have good COMMUNICATION skills.
 - Communication must be done in a positive way.
- Good directors are able to FOCUS.
 - They tell us what they want and what they expect from us and they don't waste their time.
- Good directors are RISK-TAKERS and learn from their successes and failures.
 - They know to listen to and reward the risk-takers in their chorus.
- Good directors are TRUSTWORTHY!
 - Their behavior reflects their beliefs'.
- Good directors EMPOWER others with the ability to help themselves.
 - They encourage proactive efforts.
 - They don't micro-manage.
 - They listen to everyone's suggestions and incorporate those ideas that are worthy.
 - They give positive feedback and know that it's critical.
- Good directors learn what MOTIVATES their chorus members.
 - Good directors motivate their members with praise, appreciation, recognition, and the truth about problems.
- Good directors are NON-JUDGEMENTAL and NON-BLAMING.
 - They steer clear of negative assumptions and generalizations.

- Good chorus directors focus chorus members on the POSITIVE FUTURE.
 - They give praise to people for their accomplishments and keep focused on building a better situation.

- Good directors VALIDATE.
 - They praise members for their positive qualities and accomplishments.
 - They find the good and praise it.

- 10. Good directors believe in INCLUSIVENESS.
 - They invite participation.

- Good directors are OPTIMISTIC.
 - They focus on the future, a better future.

- Good directors have a sense of HUMOR!