

## **DIRECTORS...CONSISTENCY IS THE KEY!**

There are several traps that could give your chorus a reason to worry...unfortunately they don't need much. However, you have the power to put their minds at ease!

You must learn early on in the working stage to accept that the musical product is what it is, and the only way to do that is to practice it. If necessary, announce when *we* are in "rehearsal mode" and when *we* are in "performance mode." Note the operative word...*we*. The higher the level of your chorus, the more often the two are the same.

Once you find your personal style and create your choreography to enhance the music and host the party, only then will you build trust and confidence within your chorus, And **ONLY** when you consistently practice it at every rehearsal.

## **HERE ARE THE WORRY TRAPS...**

- **WORRY # 1...The walk on and adjusting of your chorus.** Even though this is not worth a lot in terms of scoring, it matters greatly to creating a buzz and actually is the first connection with the audience if there is no curtain. It is also an opportunity to help those butterflies fly in formation by focusing on your character!
- **WORRY # 2...Timing of the pitch and if the chorus heard it.** We all know this happens and is a valid reason for concern. Train your pitch pipe blowers well, follow through with your plan, and don't start directing until you have heard it yourself.
- **WORRY # 3...The signals the chorus counts on from you after the cut off.** Are you consistent with them, and do you practice them at every rehearsal?
  1. Cut-off
  2. Bring Down
  3. Acknowledge Audience or Choreography Pose or Picture Pose
- **WORRY # 4...This is the time you need to acknowledge the applause.** Because this requires reading the audience response, there are unknowns in this process which gives your chorus a reason to worry. Oh no, they have to trust you and pay attention! With experience you will use your instinct and learn to go with the flow, so create as many opportunities to perform and practice this as you possibly can.
- **WORRY # 5...Is about the next pitch.** Once again whether they will hear it before you start to direct...huge worry!
- **WORRY # 6...Pretty much all of the above again!** We not only have the cut-off, bring down and audience acknowledgement, but we might have a final pose or picture pose to deal with, and then that walk off!