

Don'ts and Do's

Some Don'ts and Do's of Rehearsal (add your own and laminate it for your office wall!)

Don't start late.

Do have someone ready to begin rehearsal for you.

Don't begin by talking too much.

Do begin by allowing them to move, stretch, massage, etc.

Don't lose focus between every piece of music.

Do stick to your plan – think ahead!

Don't talk about every piece. (TMI!)

Do plan which pieces to discuss and which ones can wait.

Don't spend too much time chasing notes with one section.

Do that in sectionals or divide them some way.

Don't spend too much time on one piece ignoring the others.

Do treat each piece with equal attention.

Don't allow for too many announcements.

Do have written notes and one person make announcements.

Don't end rehearsal by talking.

Do choose the final piece wisely.

Don't end on the most difficult piece.

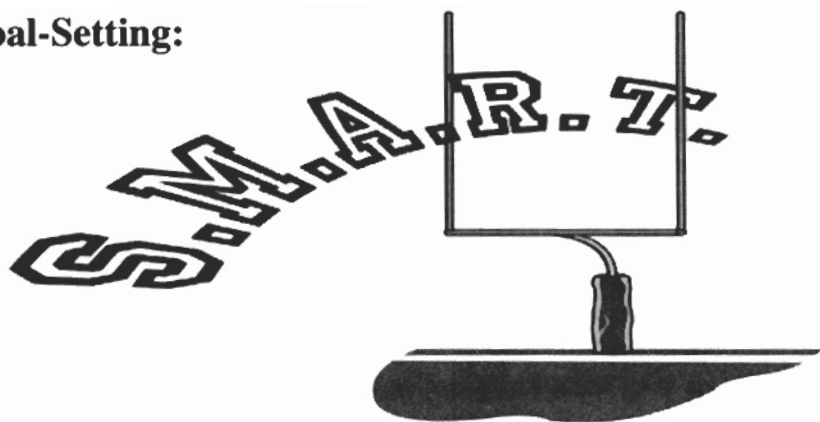
Do send them off singing, humming, smiling and they will return doing the same!

All the above will absolutely KILL the flow of rehearsal. The whole point is to take your singers on a musical journey through all of their emotions. This journey is one that is planned by you, carefully. It's like leaving on a nice family vacation and stopping at every rest stop, truck stop, and historical marker. YOU WILL NEVER GET WHERE YOU ARE HEADED, you'll be too exhausted from the starts and stops!

25 IDEAS TO PERK UP REHEARSAL

1. Do five fun warm-ups!
2. Sing a portion of one of the songs.
3. Talk about the text of one of the upcoming pieces you have chosen.
4. Have someone read it!
5. Sing a little bit.
6. Do some sight-reading just for fun.
7. Talk about the composer and the librettist.
8. Do some fun vocalises that make the singers move.
9. Ask one of the singers to describe what a song means to him or her.
10. Sing some more.
11. Make your announcements.
12. Divide into two choirs and sing for each other.
13. Do some more warm-ups.
14. Listen to another chorus sing on a CD.
15. Read portions of one of Dr. Seelig's books to the class.
16. Sing some more.
17. Do a memory pop test on what you have just sung.
18. Ask the singers for their best memory of singing.
19. Take roll.
20. Do some choreography.
21. Talk about the last concert, or the next one.
22. Rehearse one difficult passage you want them to remember.
23. Ask if there are any other announcements.
24. Sing their favorite song!
25. Tell them how much you appreciate them!

Goal-Setting:



Specific, Measurable, Accountable, Realistic, and Timed.

Specific. Share these with the choir. Define the result you wish to achieve so there will be no doubt when it has been accomplished or achieved. Avoid using terms like “more,” “better,” “lots,” etc. Give them specifics.

Measurable. There should be quantitative results. Define results that can be measured by someone not involved in the process or the program.

Accountable. Share the goal with someone or some group to which you are answerable.

Realistic. Make sure that the results are indeed attainable so that all involved can believe in success. The goal should also be challenging enough to encourage growth.

Timed. There needs to be a specific date to reach the expected results, allowing sufficient time for the full realization of results: memorization, concert, convention, etc.

So how do we become SMART(er) in our choral rehearsals?

Let's look at successful rehearsals.