

Rehearsal Techniques

Objective; To provide directors a range of tools and techniques to enhance the rehearsal experience that satisfies the emotional and musical needs of the singers and the director.

Rehearsals are what form the absolute core to the art of ensemble singing. Technique is the ability to consistently repeat the same patterns of coordination, it is a method of accomplishing a desired outcome.

- **How do we enhance our rehearsal experience?**
 - **Rehearsal Atmosphere and Procedure**
 - Establish a safe environment
 - Know your singers
 - Develop your team
 - Physical and Vocal Warmups - the most important part of the rehearsal
 - **Effective Rehearsal Communication**
 - Communication from the hands, the face and the voice
 - **Singing in Tune**
 - Mastering the elements of posture, breathing, phonation, resonance and articulation.
 - **Ear Training and singing accurate intervals**
 - **Exercises for ear training and tuning**

Warm Up #32 Scale Patterns

The image shows three staves of musical notation for warm-up exercises. Each staff contains a sequence of notes with fingerings indicated by numbers 1-8 below them.

Staff 1: 1 1 2 1 1 2 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6

Staff 2: 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 8 8 7 8 8 7 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 4 5 6 7 8 8 7

Staff 3: 6 5 4 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Reminders

- Great interval work and ear training.
- Don't breathe after '1', keep '1' part of the journey, not a destination.
- Good exercise to assist in developing 'sneak' breathing.

Warm Up #34 1, 2, 3, 4, 5-8,8-7,7

Reminders

- Good for ear training.
- Remember to sing 2, 3, 5, 6, on the high side.
- Sing the descending pattern with lift.

Warmup #34 - 1,2,3,4,5,5,4,3,2,1,1,5,4,5,3,5,2,5,1,5,4,5,3,2,1

Reminders

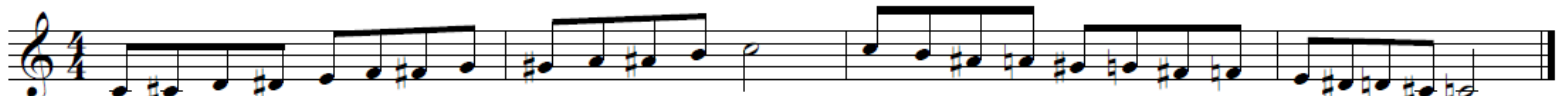
- Good interval work for ear training
- Careful to not sing heavy on '1'
- Good exercise for explaining off-beat in measures 3-6
- Add variations with clapping on the '1' or '5'

Warm Up #33 1-3-5-8-5-3-1

Reminders

- Good for ear training.
- Focus on singing the arpeggios with air and lift.
- Keep the sound connected.

Warm Up #36 Chromatic



The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The melody consists of a series of eighth notes, each with a sharp sign, indicating a chromatic scale. The notes are: C4, C#4, D4, D#4, E4, E#4, F4, F#4, G4, G#4, A4, A#4, B4, B#4, C5. The notes are grouped into four measures of four notes each. Below the staff, the lyrics are: "Sing - the half-steps on - the air - and let them rise with glee Keep the air flow con-stant and des - cend re-luc-tant-ly".

Reminders

- Great interval work for ear training.
- The words remind us to sing the descending pattern with air and lift.
- Source: *Sing Baby, Sing!*

- **Other Tips for Maintaining Pitch**

What do you want our rehearsal experience to be like?

There should be an expectation of accountability for the director and singers

What/How do we want our singers to feel in our rehearsals?

Maintaining Interest and Energy in Rehearsal

- **The 30 Ps' of a Wonderful Rehearsal**

Resources

Judging Category Description Book, Sweet Adelines, International

Choral Charisma, by Tom Carter

Sing, Baby, Sing!: A Springboard to Artistry, by Darlene Rogers, Dale Syverson & Peggy Gram

The Perfect Blend, by Dr. Timothy Seelig

The Perfect Rehearsal, by Dr. Timothy Seelig

Teaching Music with Passion, by Peter Loel Boonshaft

Above the Pipe: How Never To Sing Flat Again - Jim Henry