

Working with the Adolescent Voice

Oregon Music Educators Conference

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And the Cheldelin Chorale and Symphonic Grade Choir!!!

Chorale

Over the Sea to Sky
Traditional Scottish
Song, Arr. Cristi Cary
Miller

Hal Leonard

Symphonic

Nata Lux - Tom Porter

Heritage Music Press

Change has come to America



And when it comes to the adolescent voice change....

It means the young women in the choir

Change has come to America



What happens is a voice change.

Not simply development

Indicators of Change



- Insecurity of pitch
- Register breaks
- Huskiness
- Decreased, or inconsistent range
- Voice cracking
- Lower speaking voice
- Hoarseness

And the mutational chink

Say What?

Stages of Development

Prepubertal (8-11)

- Light and flexible
- No register breaks
- Like male voice, but lighter and less volume



Stages cont.

Pubescent/Premenarcheal

- **12-13**
- Physical Maturity
- Breathy
- Mutational chink
- Register break
- Lost of low range
- Loss of volume



Stages cont.

Puberty/Postmenarcheal

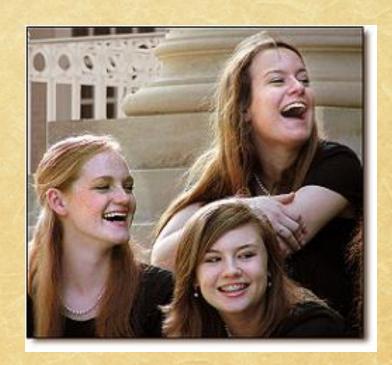
- **13-15**
- Tessituras move
- Lack of clarity
- Voice cracking
- Hoarseness
- Potential small range
- Low range may be stronger



Stages cont.

Young Adult Female/Postmenarcheal

- **14-16**
- Range increases
- Vibrato appears
- Deeper tone
- Passaggio D-F sharp
- More agility, volume



Cooksey's Voice Ranges

Changing voice stages among adolescent males (Cooksey)

Stage I Stage II Stage III Stage IV Stage V
Midvoice Midvoice Midvoice New Settling
Unchanged I II IIA Baritone Baritone



Contemporary Eclectic Theory: Cooksey



- Speaking voice change faster and sooner than singing voice
- Speaking voice pitch at bottom of range
- Breaks from being out of range.
 Not natural.
- 13 months length of time for most of the voice change.
- By mid-7th grade, you can expect all stages of change

Cooksey cont.

- For most boys, change starts at 12-13, reaches most active stage at 13-14, and then stabilizes between 15-18
- Quick change may be bass, slow change may mean tenor.
- Use comfortable range
- Strong upsurge of new baritones at the end of 8th grade.
- Students tend to stay in mid-voice II twice as long as other stages.

Select middle school ensembles based on vocal quality may be educational malpractice

Labeling Girls as altos can ruin their voice for a lifetime

It's better to have notes that they don't sing, than notes they can't sing

Work with individual voices every day

Chorale - The Lion Sleeps
Tonight - By Simon
Linda and Paul
Campbell, Arr. Roger
Emerson, Hal Leonard

Symphonic - Wade in the Water - Traditional Spiritual, Arr. Roger Emerson

Everyone - Da Pacem Domine - Melchior Franck,

Arr. Mary Goetze

Resources

Web Resources and Workshops

Understanding the changing voicee **Tim Post**,

Minnesota Public Radio

August 8,2003

http://news.minnesota.publicradio.org/features/2003/08/08_postt_changingvoices/

The Voice Care Network

Website and professional development

http://www.voicecarenetwork.org/

Resources cont.

Cambiata Press

Repertoire, Publications, Workshops

Don Collins

http://www.cambiatapress.com/

The Adolescent Female Voice: A Review of Related

Literature. Kenneth Sipley. September 1995

http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content_storage_01/0000019b/80/14/5e/28.pdf