



*Working with
the
Adolescent
Voice*

Oregon Music Educators Conference

Friday, January 14, 2011

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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.

Four Radical Ideas : 1

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

Four Radical Ideas : 2

Labeling Girls as altos can
ruin their voice for a
lifetime

Four Radical Ideas : 3

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

Four Radical Ideas : 4

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 Siple. September 1995

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