

PREPARING CHOIRS FOR THE SIYACULA CONCERT AND ABRSM CHORAL EXAMINATION

SIYACULA CONCERT AT DBCS

ITEMS: Each choir will perform 2-3 songs (max time 10 mins) as their items at the concert.

MASSED ITEMS: Additionally, all choirs need to learn the 2 prescribed combined songs that end our programme.

STAGE MANAGEMENT: Choirs need to rehearse leading on and off stage, to ensure a quick and smooth transition between choirs. Students need to be trained to be seated in their rows in reverse order so that leading on stage places them immediately in their correct rows, with Alto's on the left, and Soprano's on the right. Choirs need to be trained in following verbal and visual cues on stage from the conductor, who may require them to adjust their position on stage. Soloists and students introducing songs need to be instructed in handling microphones. All speeches must be rehearsed to be clear and polished.

FOLLOWING THE CONDUCTOR: It is imperative that students are practiced in following the conductor's gestures and in keeping their eyes on the conductor at all times.

Suggested preparation time is 16 lessons

SIYACULA WORKSHOPS

In addition to the rehearsals and performance at DBCS, all choirs rotate through music workshops facilitated by the DBCS music staff during their morning at the school.

The following workshops are provided each year (some variations around these subjects are offered):

Instruments of the Orchestra: Students watch a video presentation of "Peter and the Wolf" and then are shown various instruments. Senior DBCS boys demonstrate their skills and volunteers get to try out some of the available orchestral instruments, e.g. violin, flute, trumpet.

Piano: Students are given a demonstration on the piano covering classical, popular and jazz music, and are invited to improvise with the expert pianist.

Vocal Warm up & Choral Rehearsal DBCS style: Students experience the exacting standards that are expected from this world-class Choir School as each choir warms up their voices in preparation for a day of singing.

Conducting Workshop: One of the DBCS Conductors teaches basic conducting skills and students then take turns to conduct the choir – a practical hands-on experience.

STEERING COMMITTEE: M Mazibuko (KZN DoE), M Mokoena (KZN DoE), B Carter (Convenor)

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ABRSM INITIAL CHORAL EXAMINATION

The ABRSM Choral Examination provides an international evaluation that is practical accessible and achievable for all schools in South Africa.

In line with the ABRSM Syllabus, each choir needs to prepare a programme of two warm up exercises and three songs in contrasting style and tempo. The time allowed is 7-10minutes. It is suggested the programme includes an African traditional song (with movement), and 2 songs from the Legacy Project repertoire. The examiner will need a copy of the lyrics and translation of the African song, and copies of music scores for the other songs. Additionally, the two warm up exercises could include a Sol-fa exercise and vowel exercise such as Ee, eh ah oh ooh starting low and moving up through the vocal range.

The Examination is conducted in a room or hall with just the examiner present. The examiner will not give feedback on the day of the exam.

Choirs are marked on a polished delivery, good quality tone and intonation, balance and diction as well as the artistic merits of the programme. At least one item must be sung from memory, and at least one song must have 2 or more parts.

Each student receives a beautiful certificate with the result.

Please see the ABRSM Choral Syllabus for further details.

Suggested preparation time is 16 lessons.

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