



Music Ed Insights



Three Insights to take with you from... **The Value and Values of Show Choir** with Dina Else

Pointers for making an education case for show choir:

- It requires teamwork and coordination at a level unlike other musical organizations.
- It is the ensemble best suited for teaching the culturally important genres of pop music and musical theater.
- It's hard for individuals and the group to succeed without a solid balance of confidence and humility: individuals need to work to their potential while meshing with others and get out of their comfort zones. It's rare for students to BOTH naturally sing AND dance well.

An exercise that works in ANY performance ensemble:

- after a run-through of a segment, ask musicians to close their eyes.
- say "raise your hand if you're holding back so you don't over-balance or stick out." (You can use numbers, like "raise your hand if you're at a 4 through 7 instead of a 10 so you don't stick out.")
- say "okay - on this next run, if you raised your hand, perform at a 10 anyway, and see how it goes."
- Note that many good musicians in school groups hold back more than they need to, and this exercise helps.

If you want to be a part of a mission to keep show choir from becoming "a monster" in your area:

- Use your influence to help keep were directors from feeling undue pressure to compete, spend, and use personal time at unhealthy levels. Remember that students don't crave the high-end pursuit of victory as much as the adults around them think they do.

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