

**Traps Directors and Musical Leaders Fall Into**

**By Vickie J. Maybury ©**

1. **Teaching to slowest learner.**

How to fix:

1. Communicate your expectations verbally as well as written. Then reward those that show up knowing it.
2. When frustration occurs—and you want to go there—ask those that don't know it to step off the risers.
3. Webcast/recordings.

IMPORTANT: reward the behavior you desire.

1. **Trying to please everyone.**
   * 1. Establish a rehearsal environment that excites you.
     2. Change songs/focus every 20 minutes.
     3. Fast-paced rehearsals are exciting. Where did the time go?
     4. Limit your talking; do more singing and doing.

There's a reason you're the leader. If it's not good they'll let you know.

1. **Suggestions for learning a new song:**
2. Have the *singers* mark their octaves, diphthongs, breaths. Do not give it to them marked.
3. Start with the text then move to musical thoughts.

TEXT: Chant aloud in tempo & rhythm. Emphasize destination points for each phrase. It should make sense—like poetry.

MUSICAL: Discover the Emotions in the music. Sing lines on different vowels (ex. tenors on OO; leads on Ah; baritones on Oh, basses on EE.) Why? Rehearse cadence sections. Walk around the room in tempo.

CIRCLE WAGONS: Promotes consistent vowels and articulation.

“If architecture is frozen music, then music is architecture that dances.” V. Maybury