

Bringing out the “Young” in our Members

Effectively working with Young Women

May Leadership Workshop 2015

Caitlyn Griffith

Agenda

- My Sweet Adeline start
- Resources and Outreach
- Communication and Connection
- Chorus Life
- Vocal Development
- Conclusion
- Questions and Discussion

About Me – Caitlyn Griffith

- Sweet Adelines International & Region 10
 - Associate Faculty Member, Education Faculty
 - Young Women in Harmony Co-Coordinator (with Candice Griffith)
 - Assistant Director & Tenor Section Leader, Alamo Metro Chorus
 - Joined Sweet Adelines & AMC in 2009 at the age of 24 (YWIH)
- MacArthur High School Choir Director – 7th year of teaching
- Bachelor of Music in Music – UTSA – Graduated 2008

Awkwardet & Sunshine Nellies

- January 2009
- Rising Star Competition
- Alamo Café – AMC post-rehearsal hangout!
- Mac Choir – post-concert dinner!
- The beginning of a new journey

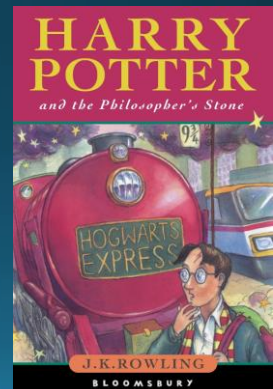


Working with Teens – My Experience

- To help young adults work to their highest potential, I:
 - Keep things exciting
 - Change things up – vary instructional plan from rehearsal to rehearsal
 - Jokes, stories, Penguin Run, kinesthetic activities
 - Vary instruction regularly
 - Avoid a completely predictable plan
 - Change pacing to the needs of the rehearsal/event – goodbye lesson plan...
 - Establish a connection
 - Teens want to know you sincerely care
 - Loyalty & honesty – they'll move mountains!

Today's High School Seniors

- Born in 1997, when:
 - Top movies: Titanic, Men in Black, My Best Friend's Wedding
 - The first Harry Potter novel was published
 - Beanie Babies were a hit
 - Dolly the Sheep was cloned
 - Elton John's "Candle in the Wind" topped the charts



Resources & Outreach Ideas

International Resources

- Member's Only → Education Center → Youth
 - Articles, Forms & Templates, Resources & Links
- Free Music Selections
 - SSAA Voicing
 - Downloadable free of charge through International Sales
 - YWIH Titles Available: Happy Birthday, Lean on Me, Mister Sandman, Star Spangled Banner, Yesterday
- Educator's Guide
 - Free for educators through International
 - Provides basics barbershop singing and YWIH song book 1 (with learning tracks)



Youth Festivals & Activities

- Many effective models!
 - All day event – conclude with afternoon/evening concert
 - Split day event – Friday night/Saturday rehearsal and concert
 - Youth series – month to six weeks of rehearsals culminating in a performance
- Purpose
 - Introduce young women to the joys of harmony and barbershop singing
 - Provide an opportunity for young women to meet and work with others who share their passion for singing
 - Provide connections to Sweet Adelines and choruses in the local area



June 13th 9am-4pm
 The Woodland's
 Show Chorus
 Youth Harmony Festival!

School Outreach Ideas

- School performances/classes
 - Coordinate a quartet or small group barbershop demo class
 - Can be tailored for all levels of youth outreach (elementary, MS, HS)
- Partner concerts
 - Invite school groups to perform on your show – Premiere/PFC
 - Volunteer to perform on a school's concert – Macappella
- Ask the director
 - Work with a quartet or small ensemble, teach tags, etc.
 - Develop a relationship with local school choir directors
 - Female directors are great potential members too ! ☺

Sisters in Harmony Patch

- Young Women in Harmony activity patch for Girl Scouts
- Introduces girls to :
 - Singing in harmony
 - The joys of singing with others
- Patch was introduced in October 2014
 - Beth Watkins!
 - Available through Sweet Adelines International
 - Visit sweetadelinesintl.org → Education → YWIH → YWIH and Scouting Organizations



Communication & Connection

Communication with Young Adults

- Texting vs. Phone calls
 - Emojis & Text lingo
- Social Media
- Email
- Multitasking
- Face to Face Communication



Attention Span

- YouTube
 - 300 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube every minute (YouTube.com)
 - More than 1 billion users
 - Changed the impact of a live performance/experience
- Tivo/DVR
 - Fast forward or pause TV
 - No need to watch "the boring stuff"
- Vine
 - 6 second video compilations
 - 12 million videos added each day
(convertwithcontent.com/waystousevine)



Chorus Life

Young Chorus Members

- The role of the parent(s)/guardian(s)
 - Liability & permission forms
 - Attendance
- Time constraints & demands
 - School
 - Work
 - Other obligations
- Build personal connections
 - Big sisters, role models, etc.

Diversity is one of our strengths!

- A diverse membership strengthens a chorus' skills and talent pool
 - Young members add to the diversity!
 - Provides a connection to future generations of Sweet Adelines
- Young members can bring great joy to a chorus culture!
 - Provide varying insight
 - Bring new skills and ideas to the chorus



Challenges

- Potential resentment from experienced members
 - How do you view chorus time?
 - Change
- Drama – we were all teen girls once!
- Extra effort and planning
- Adjustments in chorus culture
 - Music selections
 - Costume/Makeup choices



Vocal Development

Vocal Development in Young Women

- Puberty and physical development
- Posture, body image & backpacks
 - Raised sternum
 - Relaxed shoulders
- Vocal limitations and adjustments
 - Range restrictions
 - Breathiness
 - Passaggio adjustments
- Higher order thinking skills
 - Quality rehearsal takes immense focus
 - Performance is a diverse skill!



In Conclusion

SIOP

- Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol
 - Framework for organizing instruction
 - Focus on utilization with English Language Learners
 - 3 day workshop

These skills and suggestions for working with young singers
are valid for working with non-young singers too!

Questions?

Feel free to contact me:

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