

The key attributes of an effective choral conductor (Durrant, 2003, pp. 100-102)

A. Philosophical and Pedagogical principles:

- Understanding of the voice (vocal production, healthy voice use, psychology and physiology of the voice)
- Awareness of children's and adolescents' vocal development (children's song-learning behaviour, adolescents' changing voice)
- Knowledge of the choral repertoire
- Awareness of the aesthetic potential of the music (social, psychological and physical effects of choral participation)

B. Musical – Technical skills:

- Gestural vocabulary (clear beat pattern, clear ictus definition, clear cut offs, clear preparatory beats, independence of hands, clear indication of dynamics, clear indication of phrasing)
- Body movement and head posture (stable body position, upright and balanced stance, shoulders relaxed and chest not collapsed; head centrally balanced, not tilted forward, back nor sideways)
- Aural skills (correct inaccurate entries, pitches and rhythms, problems of diction; intonation at the ending of phrases; blend and balance among parts; vowel shapes)

C. Interpersonal skills and general leadership:

- Non-verbal communication that encourages responses to visual cues (sustained eye contact with choir, use of spoken language sparingly, good vocal modelling: singing correct pitches and rhythms and good phrasing)
- Encouragement/ motivation
- Quality feedback
- Clear communication goals
- Works well with people
- Enthusiasm
- Effective rehearsal planning and pacing (Time efficiency, positive learning environment, assertive teaching, student independence)