

Contemporary Ensemble Handout

Contemporary or Classical Basics for Ensembles: Basic Principles

1. Always think about the assembly as the primary singing voice
2. Balance the choir's sound with proper placement of vocal sections
3. Listen for a balanced sound between instruments and the voices
4. Be careful with the sound reinforcement equipment, do not over mic any section; the instruments, the choir, or a particular musician.

Building the Basic Sound: Create the Sound Pyramid

1. Rhythm First
2. Melody Always
3. Harmony Secondary - Instrumental Descants always as accents

Pastoral Musician Judgments: Use them for every liturgy

1. Pastoral
2. Liturgical
3. Musical
4. Theological

Leading the Ensemble: TEACH & Review

1. Conducting Skills for the solo and/or instrumentalist as conductor
2. Vocal technique and breathing to all members of the ensemble
3. Review Vocal technique with instrumentalists who sing
4. Basic musicianship skills for singers and instrumentalists

Creating Contemporary Sound: Sources for building the Ensemble

1. Rhythm First – Bass Guitar, Percussion, then rhythm guitar
2. Melody Always – Voice, piano accompaniment, lead guitar
3. Harmony Secondary – Vocal harmony, piano accompaniment
4. Instrumental Descants always as accents - strings, woodwinds, auxilliary percussion

♪ Notes ♪: