

Teachers are constantly making decisions. What shall I teach? How should I teach? Did this work? Why not? Typically these decisions occur before, during, and after teaching. For most teachers, however, those decisions made during teaching are the most challenging. These are the decisions that must be made “in the moment”, requiring the teacher to respond quickly and authoritatively to even the most unexpected situations.

Not only are these decisions difficult to make due to the improvisatory nature of real time teaching, other factors may contribute to the challenge. During rehearsal, the teacher/conductor must process and respond to a variety of environmental stimuli including musical as well as behavioral issues. Is the choir singing the correct pitches? Is the accompaniment too loud? Are the parts balanced? Is that a spitball I just saw fly by? While these factors can be overwhelming for many new teachers, they are not insurmountable. Beginning teachers *can* experience successful rehearsals. Your success will result, in part, from two factors: 1) thorough preparation of the score prior to rehearsal, and 2) possession of effective problem solving skills. This program focuses on the latter.

Our ultimate goal is to help you, the aspiring choral music education teacher, develop the skills you will need to make successful decisions while on the podium. To do so, this program will introduce a problem solving routine that can be used as a model for solving musical problems. The routine serves as a template to guide your thinking as you encounter common musical problems. As you become familiar with this routine you will be able to adapt it to the specific context of your own rehearsals. You will then be able to identify your self as a Professional Choral Trainer.

Professional Choral Trainer Skills

- ◆ Effectively and efficiently employ the decision-making process to complex situations.
- ◆ Isolate and identify common issues and problem in real choral rehearsals.
- ◆ Analyze musical problems in a specific context and prescribe alternative solutions.
- ◆ Recognize the possibility of multiple solutions and implement solutions in the context of each situation.
- ◆ Reflect on decision making strategies to identify alternative solutions for future problems.