

# Fostering creativity in the secondary choral ensemble rehearsal



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Performing Creativity

My Story

Sharing Session

# Setting the Stage

Provide safe place for risk taking

Model creativity and vulnerability

Encourage growth mindset instead of fixed mindset

Tips for promoting the habit of creativity:

1. Give opportunity to engage in it
2. Give encouragement
3. Emphasize the process over the product

Performances  
Discussion  
Improvisation  
Ostinato  
Circlesongs

# Defining Musical Creativity

“The engagement of the mind in the active, structured process of thinking in sound for the purpose of producing some product that is new for the creator.”

(Peter Webster, 2002)

# Four types of creativity

Fluency - thinking of lots of possibilities

Flexibility - thinking of lots of *different* possibilities

Originality - thinking of *unique* possibilities

Elaboration - developing and combining possibilities

(Torrence 1974, Kratus 1990 & 2017)

# Listening Categories

Rhythm – fast/slow, long/short, repetitive/varied

Melody – smooth/jagged, diatonic/chromatic, simple/complex

Harmony – major/minor, harmonic rhythm, repetitive/varied, simple/complex

Texture – thick/thin, high/low, simple/complex

Dynamics – loud/soft, phrasing, word accent

Form – repetition of sections, eg. ABABCB

Timbre – quality of sound, bright/dark, smooth/brash, instrumentation, vowel color

Process – contrast, imitation, composition, motif

Image/story – thought, idea, or visual

Emotion – feeling of music/text or in response to music/text

Style – articulation (legato, staccato, marcato), vocal technique, historic period

Judgment – critique of the performance or composition

# Development

Increase Accountability

Increase Visibility

4 musical processes: Composing, Improvising, Performing, Listening

4 classifications of creativity: Fluency, Flexibility, Originality, Elaboration

## Other notes:

Content specific (even within music)

Performance technique need not precede creativity. “When a healthy balance is achieved, as so many sensitive, creative music educators successfully achieve, musicianship flourishes, with all its attendant joys and satisfactions.” (Bennett Reimer, 2003)

Creativity requires alternating divergent and convergent thinking. Too much of traditional music rehearsal focuses on convergent only.

# For more ideas...

[www.mvhschoir.org/creativity](http://www.mvhschoir.org/creativity)

Creativity Co-Curriculum Outline

Creativity Co-Curriculum Lesson Plans

Performance Driven Creativity Exercises

Group Improvisation and Composition

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Q&A