

Presenting Warmups

Some things to consider when presenting warmups:

1. Start in E or F and keep exercise in the range of a third or a fifth.
2. Conduct the warmups and keep them rhythmic to help establish a sense of inner pulse.
3. Always model a deep, supported breath as you conduct. Watch and listen for supported singing.
4. You should model the exercise for the singers and **have them try it** before making constructive comments.
5. Do not sing with the group during warmups! Critical listening, for both the conductor and the singers, should begin with warmups.
6. It often helpful to establish a dynamic level for a warmup and to shape exercises dynamically. This improves the support and intensity of the singing.
7. Consonants can help to place the vowel and improve the accuracy of students singing. Consonant/vowel combinations should be chosen with specific goals in mind.
8. Use the piano sparingly to set the tonality and to move up or down, but not to double the singing.
9. Make a difference in the choir's sound.