

1

The slide has a blue background with a yellow sun and white clouds at the top. The title 'Pace/Play' is in large white font. Below it, a quote in white text reads: 'Don't take yourself too seriously. Students appreciate rehearsals that offer a balance of challenge and relaxation. Finding that intricate balance will yield a great amount of student equity for when you really need every ounce of their attention.' To the right of the quote is a video inset showing four people in a virtual meeting. At the bottom left, the text 'Ex: Throw/Catch' is displayed in white.

Pace/Play

Don't take yourself too seriously. Students appreciate rehearsals that offer a balance of challenge and relaxation. Finding that intricate balance will yield a great amount of student equity for when you really need every ounce of their attention.

Ex: Throw/Catch

3

Acquire

Never stop learning! If you can't make it to your state or national convention, create your own cohort of teachers with whom you can trade ideas and best practices. With Zoom, Face Time and other social outreach applications, it is easier than ever to build professional groups that reflect the needs of your teaching situation. No teacher must be an island unto themselves.

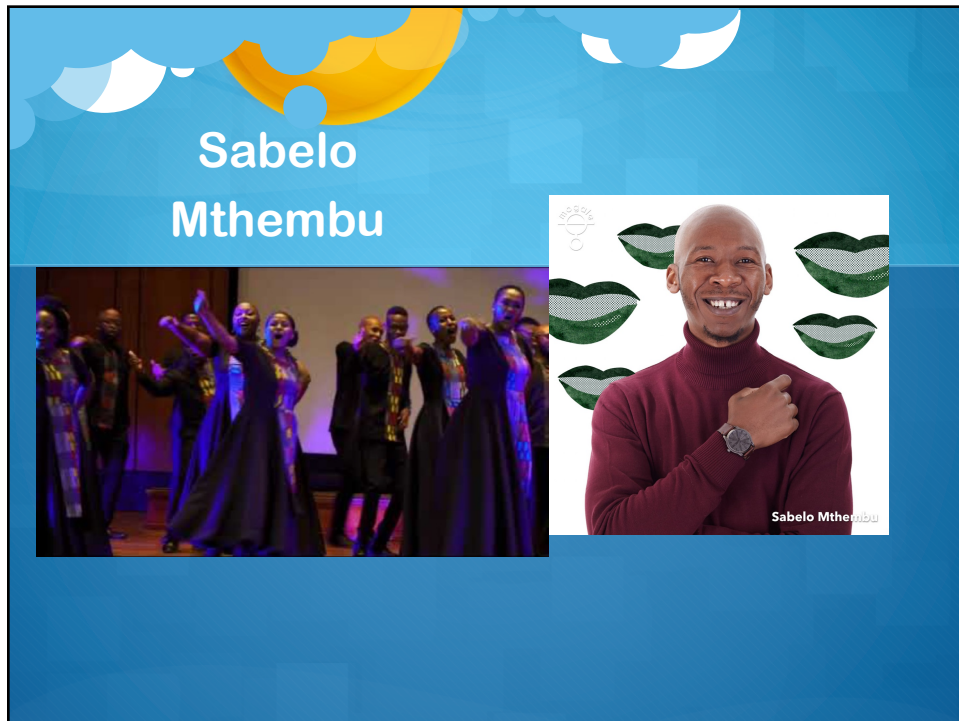
- Professional Choral Collective - <https://www.drderrickfox.com/the-professional-choral-collective>
- DEAIB - <https://www.drderrickfox.com/diversity-resources>
- Derrick Fox Choral Series - <https://musicspoke.com/derrick-fox-series/>

5

Thabo Matshego



9



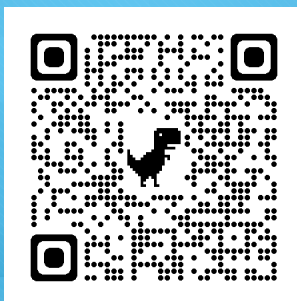
10



11

Acquire

Social Emotional Learning
Focused Repertoire




12

Savor

As music students, we are taught to find the errors and move on to the next issue. Savor the successes. If you get wrapped up in the hunt for mistakes, your students will never experience the gratification of achieving. Take time to intentionally revel in the good things, however big or small, because you and your students deserve it.

- “Post-It Shout Out” – Students (and the teacher!) write down something they did well in rehearsal, like learning a tricky rhythm, using good posture, or helping a classmate, and stick it on the music board or share it in the class chat. The teacher reviews the shout-outs and shares a few with the whole choir during the next class, rehearsal week, or concert prep session to celebrate growth and teamwork.
- “We don't have to do all of it alone. We were never meant to.” – Brené Brown


14




Check for understanding:
Activity: 3-2-1

At the end of class, have students write down or complete an online survey (you can use Google Forms) to ask about the day's lesson:

- 3 things you found out
- 2 interesting things
- 1 question you still have.



15



Imagine

Develop a clear vision or mission statement for your choral program. A program without a guiding purpose is like building a house without a blueprint—disorganized and uninviting. Your mission doesn't need to be complex, but it should be intentional and reflective of your values. Don't be afraid to be creative in shaping a plan that inspires both you and your students. Get outside of your comfort zone!

"Reflections of Us"

You Don't Have to Program By Theme!

Challenge your concertgoers

Heart Like a Truck

16

Diversity Through Literacy



I Don't Have Your Eyes

21



22

Ownership

- ◊ **Empowering Student Leaders in the Choral Classroom**
- ◊ Assign meaningful tasks to students (e.g., warm-ups, sectionals, attendance)
- ◊ Builds confidence, accountability, and connection to ensemble
- ◊ Encourages students to see themselves as contributors, not just participants
- ◊ Shifts classroom culture toward collaboration and shared responsibility
- ◊ Helps educators delegate intentionally and develop future leaders
- ◊ Use leadership styles to match students with roles that fit their strengths

24

Ownership

<u>Color</u>	<u>Style Name</u>	<u>Core Traits</u>	<u>Strengths in the Choir Room</u>
Blue	The Harmonizer	Caring, empathetic, loyal	Builds community and supports inclusion
Gold	The Organizer	Responsible, detail-oriented, reliable	Manages logistics and ensures consistency
Green	The Analyzer	Strategic, curious, independent	Solves problems and improves processes
Orange	The Energizer	Enthusiastic, creative, bold	Inspires energy, engagement, and spontaneous leadership

25



Never Forget Your Purpose

Have you clearly defined why students should be a part of YOUR choral program?

27



Never Forget Your Purpose

Music is NOT a universal language!

29

Appreciate

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

In the hustle and bustle of preparing concerts, shows, solo and ensemble groups, we can forget to express our gratitude to our students, colleagues, family and friends. Purposeful Appreciation

[Appreciation Videos](#)

30

Trust

Build relationships with those you trust with your professional well-being. The difficulty is that there are those who will point out your flaws because it makes them feel better and there are others who will point out your flaws because they are truly invested in your growth. Discovering the difference can lead to a wonderful cohort of life-long friendships and musical inspiration.

Imposter Syndrome

31



Empower (Students and Yourself)


- Choir is more than singing—it's a platform for exploring culture, identity, and lived experiences.
- Selecting repertoire that reflects diverse voices affirms students and validates their stories.
- Culturally representative music invites students to see themselves and others in the art we create.
- This builds a classroom rooted in empathy, curiosity, and belonging.
- In such a space, deep and authentic music-making naturally flourishes—every day.

[Raise Your Voice in Song](#)

[Institute for Composer Diversity](#)

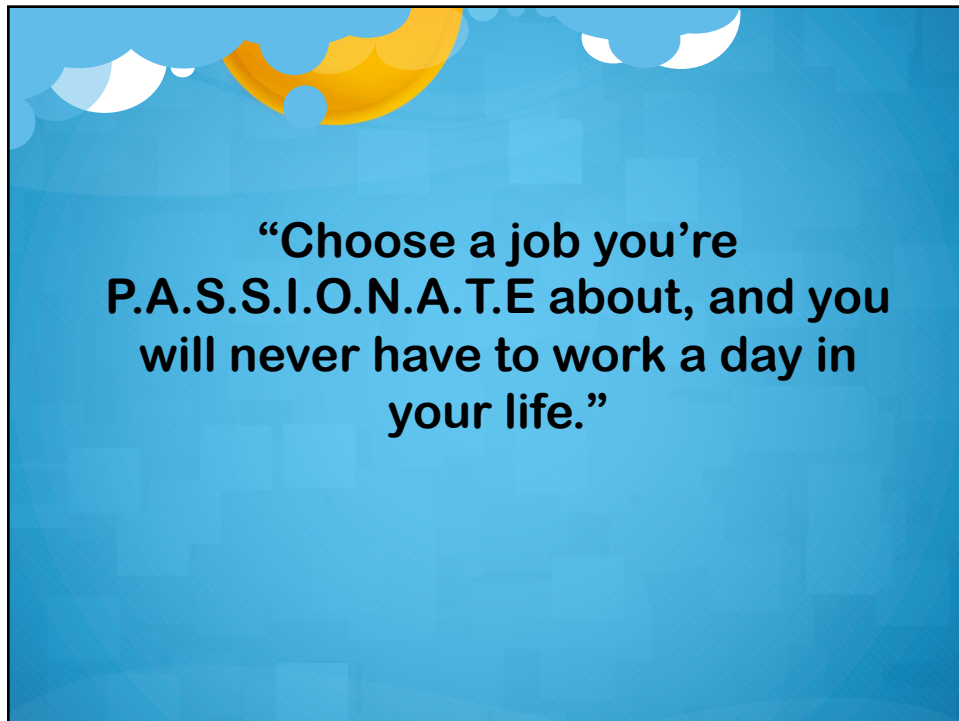
CMA – MTOE

32

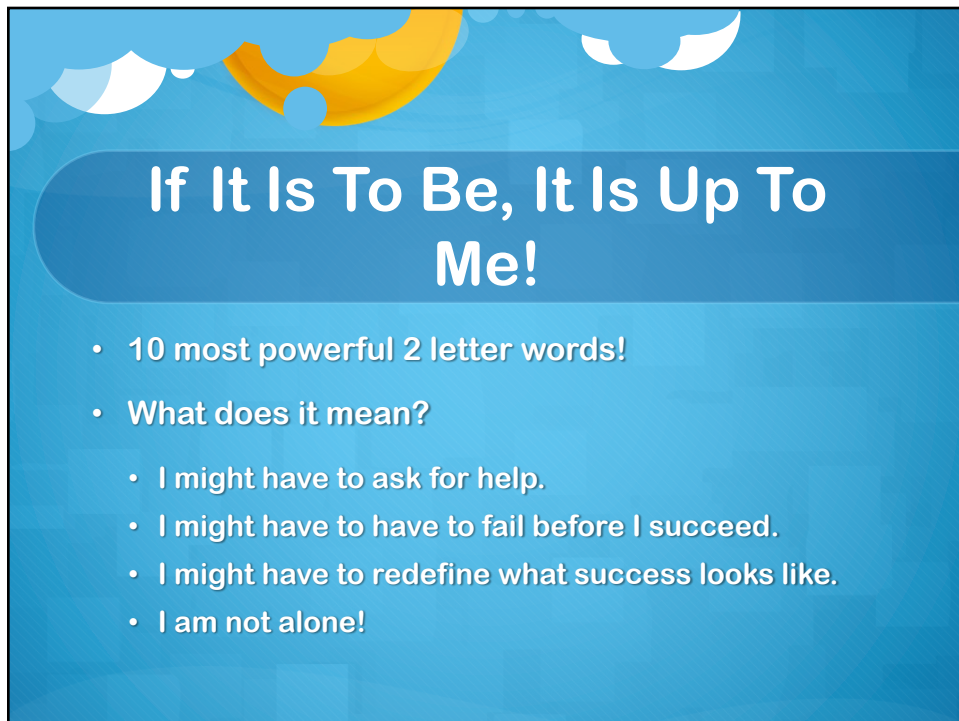


**“Choose a job you love, and you
will never have to work a day in
your life.”**

33



34



35



More Information:

Dr. Derrick Fox

Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Creative Endeavors

Professor of Choral Music/Conducting

Michigan State University

www.drderickfox.com