

Choral Music and Storytelling: Building Engagement Through Program Flow

Raul Dominguez, DMA
Regis University

Matthew Myers, DMA
Washington State University

- I. Why Storytelling Matters
 - A. Telling humanity's stories
 - B. Our lived experiences in repertoire
 - 1. Abandoning the cookie-cutter concert
 - 2. Opening up the opportunity to find new composers, styles, genres
- II. Planning Your Concert
 - A. Planning Process:
 - 1. Theme
 - 2. Concert Title
 - 3. Repertoire
 - 4. Storytelling Elements
 - B. Brainstorm choral repertoire for your choir/s for one of these themes:

WATER EARTH DAY LOVE NIGHT ELEMENTS BELONGING OTHER

- III. Considerations
 - A. Theme and Concert Title
 - B. Repertoire search that reflects composers/arrangers/stories of:
 - 1. Diverse roots
 - 2. Gender identities/expressions
 - 3. Different corners of the world
 - C. Planning the Flow
 - 1. Tempo
 - 2. Key
 - 3. Thematic Development

IV. Flow Template

A. One such template flow:

1. Opener
2. Novelty or unlike the “norm”
3. Unaccompanied heartfelt tune
4. Inspirational jam
5. Closer

B. Your own example:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

V. Elements to Enhance Storytelling

- A. Storyboard
- B. Multimedia
- C. Poetry/narration
- D. Staging
- E. Performance Considerations

VI. Connecting to the Music

- A. Assignments and/or projects
- B. Connections to social sciences and other arts
- C. Guests

VII. Social-Emotional Learning

- A. Class discussions/Listening circles
- B. Retreat activities
- C. Post-concert talk backs: performers and audience

VIII. Thank you for coming!

Matthew Myers, DMA
Washington State University
matthew.myers1@wsu.edu
<https://choirfam.buzzsprout.com/>

Raul Dominguez, DMA
Regis University
rdominguez@regis.edu
www.raulconducts.com