

LEA'S TOP TIPS

1. Be open and flexible

If something isn't working, change it or leave it out. If the singers don't understand what you want from them, try a different way of explaining. That's not to say that you shouldn't aim for musical accuracy or a great performance, just constantly adjust to the speed of learning in the room.

2. Have fun!

Try to make every session as enjoyable for your singers as possible. This might mean absorbing any stress or anxiety from the choir on the run up to a performance. Laughter is a good step on the road to better wellbeing.

3. Keep it fresh

If you have lots of new people coming or singers who come back after a while away, I think it's always a good idea to introduce something that's new for everyone. All the singers, both new and old, are then in the same boat. I've found that this can build confidence in beginners.

4. Be extra supportive

When learning new material, be extremely open and aware of what your singers are telling you in their faces and body language. Supporting the needs of those who learn slowest might mean repeating things more than you think is useful.

5. Ethos

Developing a group that is truly welcoming and inclusive takes input from everyone in the group. Encourage an atmosphere of support between the singers. I've found that an air of calm unflappability is useful whatever is happening! Personally welcome any new members who turn up.

