

October 20, 2009

Dear Students,

My name is Amanda Stevenson and I am a graduate student in music education at Western Illinois University. As a part of my thesis, I am conducting a research on the effectiveness of strategies for teaching individual singers to use specific behaviors that may help during individual sight-singing tests, while avoiding other behaviors that may not help.

If you decide to participate in the study, you will be asked to participate in a brief survey about your musical background and your school choral program. You will then be given a Musical Aptitude Profile (MAP) test. After this score is determined, you will be given an individual sight-singing pre-test, similar to those used in many all-state choir auditions. After pre-testing, you will be randomly assigned to one of two groups. One of the groups will receive a 30 minute treatment of instruction about behaviors that are linked with achievement in sight-singing performance. Behaviors that will be discussed during this teaching session may include: using Curwen hand signs, singing out loud during the practice time, keeping the beat with your body, singing through the entire melody, isolating challenging spots in the music, skipping the easy parts during the practice time, setting a steady tempo, all of which are common behaviors in a music classroom environment. Afterwards, you will take a sight-singing post-test. The pre-tests and post-tests will be audio-recorded so that the tests can be scored. All scores will remain confidential, and your name will not be used in this study. Instead, you will be assigned a random number so that I am able to individually track all scores.

There is minimal risk involved in this study. The risk is not greater than that experienced in normal daily activities. I hope this study will help you develop a better understanding of yourself as a musician. Depending on the treatment you receive, you may gain sight-singing skills. Your name will not be included on any part of this study. You will be assigned a random number so that the survey, pre/post-tests, audio-recordings, and MAP tests can all be individually tracked. All results will remain confidential. You do not have to participate in this study and can quit the study at any time with no consequences or repercussions.

Questions regarding this study may be directed to the investigators in the study, Amanda Stevenson (AR-Stevenson@wiu.edu), or Dr. Richard Cangro, School of Music, WIU (RM-Cangro@wiu.edu). This project has been reviewed and approved by the WIU Institutional Review Board. Questions concerning your rights as a participant in this research may be directed to Angela Tee, IRB Administrator, at (309) 298-1191 or IRB-Administrator@wiu.edu.

Thank you for your time and your help in this project. Please return the attached form to your choir director and save this page for your information. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Amanda R. Stevenson
Western Illinois University
319-457-1008
AR-Stevenson@wiu.edu

_____ I agree to be in your study.

_____ I do not agree to be in your study.

Please check this box if you will allow your Musical Aptitude Profile score to be released to your teacher. Knowing your score can allow your teacher to quickly provide appropriate instruction through group and individual teaching methods.

If you want to be in the study, please sign on the line below. Remember, you can quit being in the study any time.

Participant Name (printed)

Participant Signature

Date

Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

Date