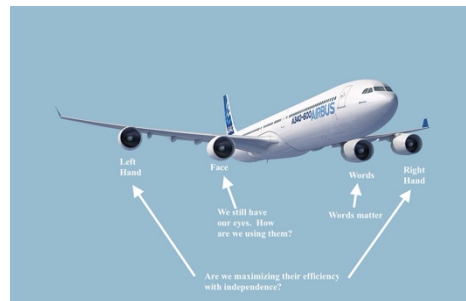


Expressive Conducting While Masked: How can I conduct effectively when they can't see my face?

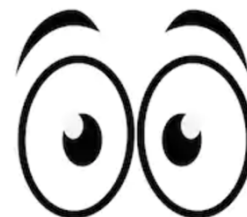
Florida Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association
(FLACDA)
SOS: Serving Our Singers Virtual Conference
October 23-24, 2020
Dr. Peter Steenblik
University of West Florida



1. RH – using with precision
2. LH – maximizing efficiency with LH/RH independence
3. Face – we still have our EYES. How are we using them?
4. Words – words matter

EYES

- Importance of eye contact – especially now – look beyond the mask
- Cartoon eyes
- Strive to make contact with each student during each song



WORDS

- Words matter
- Mask away from articulators. Lapel/lavalier mic.
- Sarcasm? Nope.
- Names – make special effort to let them know you recognize/see them
- Judy Arthur, “Tell us one thing you’ve done this week that you’re proud of.”
- Ask your singers directly how THEY are doing
- Mouthing the words... Nope. Hand gestures—solidify them, write them in the score
- Diction – IPA:
 - Flashcards
 - Handout
 - Bulletin board with laser pointer

HANDS

- Wear a **contrasting** color
- Daily warm up for yourself (incorporate some of the below)

RIGHT HAND

- **Breath** in the gesture:
 - Low horizontal plane
 - Keep music stand/piano out of the way for transparency
- **Tone** – be aware of finger position:

- soft palate will mimic the fingers
- **Precision** – really hone the pattern:
 - Preparation, Ictus, Rebound
 - Fermata exercises
 - Continuous, vs. Breath, vs. Caesura (Green, Yellow, Red)
 - Continuous – exaggerate the rebound
 - Breath – reverse the pattern, strike twice
 - Caesura – reverse the pattern, strike thrice
- **Articulation** – hinge work
 - Legato – horizontal
 - Staccato – wrist
 - Marcato – break the plane
 - Light – elevate the plane
 - Tenuto – exaggerate & slow the rebounds
- Onset & Releases (explore Laban later)

LEFT HAND

- Strive for LH independence
- LH can –
 - Double RH (for periodic emphasis)
 - Encourage support
 - Illustrate line
 - Assist with dynamics
 - Invite entrances
 - Articulate releases
 - Indicate diction
 - Aid in balancing the choir
 - Palm down please
 - Classroom management
- LH independence exercises:
 - 2 vs. 3
 - Clock face vs. 4

LABAN EFFORTS

- Rudolf Laban – movement, dance, music
 - Dab Light – Direct – Sudden
 - Glide Light – Direct – Sustained
 - Flick Light – Indirect – Sudden
 - Float Light – Indirect – Sustained
 - Punch Heavy – Direct – Sudden
 - Press Heavy – Direct – Sustained
 - Slash Heavy – Indirect – Sudden
 - Wring Heavy – Indirect – Sustained

