

Practice Sheet February 3-9

Name: _____ Period: _____

Assignment:

- 8th Grade
 - Memorize both songs with zero pitch, rhythm, or word errors. (PROFESSIONAL)
- 6th and 7th Grade
 - Memorize both songs with zero pitch, rhythm, or word errors. (PROFESSIONAL)

This practice sheet is due Friday, February 10th.

Practice Time: Please sign below to indicate that you completed the items listed above.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Important Announcements:

February 4 th	Diva Day (select students)	TBD
Feb 6 th	LGPE Practice	4:30-5:30 PM
Feb 7 th	LGPE Practice	4:30-5:30 PM
Feb 8 th	Voices of Cooper Rehearsal (select students)	4:30-5:45 PM
Feb 9 th	LGPE Practice	4:30-5:30 PM
Feb 13 th	LGPE Practice	4:30-5:30 PM
Feb 14 th	LGPE Practice	4:30-5:30 PM
Feb 15 th	Voices of Cooper Rehearsal	4:30-5:45 PM
Feb 16 th	LGPE Practice	4:30-5:30 PM
Feb 22 nd	Voices of Cooper Rehearsal	4:30-5:45 PM
Feb 23 rd	LGPE Practice	4:30-5:30 PM
Feb 24 th	LGPE Practice	4:30-5:30 PM
February 27 th	After School Rehearsal (ALL GRADES REQUIRED)	4:30-6:00 PM
February 28 th	Pre-LGPE Concert	7:00-7:30 PM
February 29 th	Voices of Cooper Rehearsal	4:30-5:45 PM
March 1 st	LGPE Practice	4:30-5:45 PM
March 5 th	LGPE Practice (6 th and 7 th REQUIRED)	4:30-5:30 PM
March 6 th	LGPE Practice	4:30-5:30 PM
March 7 th	NO VOICES OF COOPER TODAY!!!	
March 8, 9	LGPE	During School
April 6 th	Atlanta Hawks Game	TBD
May 10 th -13 th	DISNEY FIELD TRIP! (8 th Grade)	
May 17 th	Spring Concert	7:00-8:00 PM
May TBD	Kennesaw State Field Trip	

Sincerely,

Lars Grevstad
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Intonation

With the advent of American Idol, we often heard the word **pitchy** being used. The word **pitchy** actually means covered in pitch or tarry as in covered in tar. What the American Idol Judges really mean to say is that the contestants are singing out of tune. Our big musical term for this is **intonation**. Intonation means producing or uttering tones, especially in regard to accuracy of pitch. You can think of this in terms of hitting a target. In archery you try to shoot your arrow at the yellow bull's-eye. In darts it is a red bull's-eye. In both games you get more points for hitting the center than for hitting around the center. Singing is similar. When you hit or sing on the center of the pitch it is much more pleasing to the ear than when you sing on the edges of the pitch, either **sharp** or **flat**. **Sharp** means singing on the high side of the pitch and **flat** means singing on the low side of the pitch.

So what can we do to help the chorus as a whole sing with good **intonation**? Our first line of defense is our ears. Singers must listen to the instrumentation of an accompaniment and they must **audiate** (hear in their head) the sound before they produce it. When we sing in a choir, we must always be able to hear what is going on around us. If we are singing so loud that we cannot hear the people around us, we are singing too loud. On the other side, if we are singing so softly that we cannot hear ourselves we MAY need to sing out more. Notice that I say MAY. Sometimes we sing out of tune to hear ourselves better. If you have a naturally soft voice and have a hard time hearing yourself, singing louder might cause vocal problems and put strain in your voice and cause you to sing sharp or flat. If you have difficulty hearing yourself and feel like you should not give any more volume, you can cup your ear in rehearsal to hear yourself better. CAUTION: this is a tool for rehearsal only. You would probably look really silly doing this on stage in the middle of a concert, especially if you are the only one doing it.

Singing in tune is not just about listening. It is also about feeling. If you feel vocal strain in your singing, it is very likely that you are singing out of tune and may not even know it. Singing should feel free, relaxed, and open. Allowing deep inhalations will help your voice begin in a good place.

Finally, if you sing with pure, balanced vowels, **intonation** improves greatly. Understanding that you are **sharp** or **flat** is not enough. We must know how to fix it. There are only three things we control vocally as singers. First is our breathing, second is our cord closure, and third is how we say the words (pronounce our vowels). Approximately 80% of **intonation** problems can be solved by singing with proper vowels. And what is a vowel exactly? A vowel is basically the shape of the resonating cavity as the voice is **phonating** (creating sound through vocal fold vibration). The way you form your tongue, teeth, lips, and larynx creates the vowel. While breathing and cord closure are important, the easiest thing for the singer to control is the vowel.