ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: A Proposed Curriculum for a Master’s Degree in Choral Conducting with an Applied Focus on Community-Based Children’s Choirs

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PAGES: 23

The purpose of this project was to develop a curriculum for a master’s degree in choral conducting with an applied focus on community-based children’s choirs. Research suggests that successful children’s choir conductors possess strong administrative skills in addition to advanced training in treble-voice pedagogy and literature. These topics are typically not required or available as coursework in the undergraduate music degree. Therefore, musicians seeking additional training to advance their work with community-based children’s choirs may choose to pursue a master’s degree in choral conducting. While the training of a conventional master’s program is beneficial to the children’s choir conductor, essential components are missing. Conductors wishing to work with community-based children’s choirs require immersive, comprehensive exposure to treble-voice choral literature and vocal pedagogy, and various business and management topics related to nonprofit arts administration. Based on these findings, a proposed curriculum for a master’s degree in choral conducting with an applied focus on community-based children’s choirs was developed. Suggestions for incorporating a children’s choir into a master’s degree conducting recital were presented, and implications of this project to the broader arts community and to trends in higher education were discussed.