

**National Conference 2009**  
**Junior High/Middle School Roundtable Discussions**  
**Synopsis and Evaluation**  
**Middle School and Junior High Choral Musicians Speak to ACDA**

**Basic Questions**

Why define our Standards? MENC has already done this for music educators  
What do the State R&S Chairpersons do? (Honor Choirs, Publications, Writing, Competitions [as adjudicators], etc.)

**1. Repertoire: Selection, Choices and Presentation**

- 1 More resources posted on the web (3 group responses)
- 2 Make sure chosen voicings reflect “real” life choirs
- 3 It should be an expectation that a paid professional accompanist is a vital part of a choral program.
- 4 Continue to expect excellence. Don’t compromise on excellence.
- 5 Explore world choral (music) initiative
- 6 Encourage composer/choir interaction
- 7 Encourage composers to attend reading sessions when their pieces are on the list
- 8 Don’t feel compelled to read an entire piece at a reading session (varying opinions voiced)
- 9 Teach more AUTHENTIC JH/MS level music.
- 10 Publishers are still not consistently publishing quality music for this vocal stage.

**2. Choral Vocal Production: Vocal Health, Intonation and Style**

**3. Rehearsal Techniques and Instruction: Music Literacy, Rehearsal Techniques, Instruction and Management**

- 1 More JH/MS interest sessions offered on the convention schedule

- 2 Teach notes, rhythms, symbols and languages
- 3 Provide more interest sessions with Performing Choirs and their conductors, possibly with question/answer time

#### **4. Professional Growth and Development: Copyright, Networking, Continuing Education**

##### Networking for JH/MS choral musicians

- 1 Why aren't more JH/MS choirs on the National stages. Honor Choir students need a chance to hear their peers on a National Stage. (2 group responses)
- 2 Performing groups – more “down to earth”
- 3 Invite “regular” JH choirs from 100 mile radius (lower travel expense) to work as a “demonstration choir” with a clinician [we can relate to.]
- 4 Have Choir exchanges at the National conference – exchange information and rehearse together—then perform together. Maybe set up the Honor Choirs as exchange groups with International choirs.

##### Professional Development through the Choral Journal –

- 1 Need more practical information for teachers. Sometimes the Choral Journal articles are too “lofty” for most choral directors. (5 group responses)

##### Technology

- 2 Send regular updates to the membership, possibly by R & S area
- 3 Comment section (or blog) on each R&S page
- 4 Utilize the “best and brightest” in terms of website content
- 5 Make rehearsal tracks for Honor Choirs available on the website
- 6 JH/MS resources need to be all-inclusive (Tried and True/New/Graded Lit sources)
- 7 Have a “Today's Great Practice” Box where one teaching tip, management tool or great piece (or whatever) is a focus for the day
- 8 Improve communication
- 9 Utilize a JH/MS blog page. (4 group responses)
- 10 List of solo sings for festivals/contests
- 11 Monthly “Composer Chat” – open chat room with a composer
- 12 Create a JH/MS Facebook Group
- 13 Streaming videos of Convention Highlights [Note: YouTube site is currently being operated in this manner.]
- 14 Put a full time Technology person on the National Board
- 15 More technology sessions at conferences

## World Choral Activities

- 1 Internet connections and alliances
- 2 Exchange partners and schools
- 3 Skype relationships
- 4 Connect with diverse ethnic groups within your community
- 5 Participate in “Virtual Choir Tours”
- 6 Give kids a global perspective through exposure to the music of other cultures
- 7 Work with Smithsonian Global Sounds – primary source materials connection
- 8 More International Choirs on Convention stages
- 9 More interest sessions with Performing Choirs and their conductors possibly with Q/A time
- 10 Create an endowment to fund International Choirs expenses when performing for ACDA membership.

## **5. Recruitment and Retention**

- 1 Teacher retention in the JH level is a problem.
- 2 Recruiting 101: Creating a Tribe

## **6. Audience Development and Education**

## **7. Advocacy: Choral Art, Genre**

- 1 Need to legislate a mandate for music in the schools
- 2 Apply more emphasis and thought in this area
- 3 Every student needs the chance to sing in a choir.
- 4 Show yourself to be indispensable to your school and your community.
- 5 Publicity is critical.
- 6 Participate in Arts Alliances—across the Arts.
- 7 Keep programs visible on the local, state, and national levels. (Sing for School Board meetings, ball games, any place where people gather.)
- 8 More advocacy on the National level (ACDA or Obama-level?)
- 9 Music is the common bond world-wide. Use it. It might be the only way to communicate—children exchanging with children

## **8. Other**

- 1 Research – so much of what is presented applies to a small minority of the membership. (3 group responses)
- 2 Utilize retired members—what a valuable resource