

What Do Young People Learn While Singing in a Choir?

When they become aware that their voice is heard above the other and they blend voices, they learn **teamwork**.

When they follow their music director's hands through a series of meter and dynamic changes, they learn **accuracy** and **focus**.

When they begin to appreciate, or "grow into" a piece of music, they learn **patience**.

When they refrain from talking and interrupting in rehearsal, they learn **respect**.

When they listen and concentrate during rehearsals, and when they practice faithfully at home, they learn **self-discipline**.

When they sing in different languages, they begin to **see the world**.

When they don't get the solo they wanted and congratulate the person who did, they learn **good sportsmanship** and **graciousness**.

When they go singing at a nursing home they learn **compassion** and **community involvement**.

When they choose a rehearsal or performance over a special event, they learn **commitment** and **passion**.

When they bound out of their singing positions to give a "high five" because they finally sang their most difficult piece straight for the first time, they learn **perseverance**.

When they perform their first solo in front of an audience, they learn **risk-taking** and **self-confidence**.

When they work hard in concerts and recording sessions and then hear the new CD that was produced, they learn genuine **gratitude** and **self-esteem**.

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Research shows time and again that students have only to gain from involvement in choral singing and the arts. A well-organized, sustained education in music gives children and youth intellectual and creative skills that last a lifetime.