

LUCY'S TOP TIPS

1. Never skip the warm-up

Apart from looking after the voice and preparing to sing in a healthy way, warm-ups are really useful for establishing trust and rapport with – and amongst – your singers, releasing tensions, energising body and mind, introducing new ideas and teaching vocal technique.

2. Structure your session

It will help you to be efficient and keep the rehearsal flowing if you know what you need to cover and what you want to achieve. However, be prepared to explore in different directions if you need to.

3. Listen

It's important that you really listen to your choir in order to know how to help them improve. Encourage them to listen to each other too, for balance, blend, and good ensemble.

4. Make music from the start

Singing the right notes is only part of our job. What's much more interesting is how we sing the notes, what direction we give them, their shape, colour, dynamics, and above all the story we're telling. Of course we all need to start by learning the notes, but try to create beautiful music throughout the learning process. Exploring musical ideas from the start such as articulation, phrasing, and the meaning of the words will aid learning and make it more interesting, create positive habits, and ultimately lead to a more interesting and fulfilling performance. Don't be scared of taking risks and trying out different ways to get the sound and shapes you want. You'll have a lot of fun doing this too!

5. Get physical

Movement can be beneficial in all sorts of ways: creating a good sound, making musical shapes, and upping the energy levels in the room.

6. Have fun

Most singers join a choir because they love singing and want to have a good time sharing the experience with others. Creating a fun and relaxed atmosphere will energise the room and help people enjoy themselves, which in turn aids the learning process. It will also make a choir much more interesting to watch on stage.

