

To Synch or Not to Synch

Definition of *synchronize*

: to cause (things) to agree in time or to make (things) happen at the same time and speed

: to happen at the same time and speed

Source: Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary

Why Does Singing in Synch Matter?

Chord clarity

Tuning Issues

Ring

Understanding the lyrics

Impacts emotional communication with the audience

UNITY

What Are Major Factors Impacting Synch?

Consonant interference:

Punching consonants

Lack of consonants

Length of consonant

Target Vowels:

Attack of target vowel

Length of target vowel

Execution and timing of diphthongs

Breathing:

Length of breaths

Extra breaths

Not taking breaths as assigned spots

Insufficient breath stamina

Phrase Execution:

Knowing 'the plan'

Vertical singing of lyrics

Extending phrases - cutoffs

Energy level

Emotions

Tempo:

Understanding and/or execution of tempo

Backbeat vs Downbeat

Tempo changes

What Are Major Factors Impacting Synch? Cont'd

Accuracy:

- Scooping
- Glottals

Director:

- Unclear hand signals
- Inconsistent direction of 'the plan'
- Other body movement interference (i.e. knees, mouthing words)

Choreography:

- Insecurity of the visual plan
- Visual plan interferes with musical plan

Tips to Help Sing in Synch

- Analyze the music chart for vulnerable areas
- Develop a consistent interpretive plan
- Have a consistent approach to vowels/diphthongs
- Rehearse with performance energy and focus
- Mitigate rehearsal hall impacts (i.e. 'too live')
- Keep tempo consistently pulsed (dr. beat, metronome etc.)

Exercises to Help Sing in Synch

- Have all parts sing the melody line in unison
- Sing all the words on 'doot'
- Clap the tempo
- Pulse the tempo with pointer finger on opposite hand
- Work synch by section and build
- Have chorus/quartet singers audiate when not singing
- Talk the phrase until unified then sing
- Use difficult phrases/words in warmup
- Sing the lyrics, in tempo, all on one note

BE VIGILANT -- It's all in the DETAILS!!!