



VOCAL PLAY

NON-MUSICAL NOISES

DESCRIPTION:

The aim of this exercise is to warm up all the different timbres of the voice, without a whiff of musicality! Certain emotional cues can create fabulous multi-pitch, multi-timbre noises that connect us with our emotions (heart-space), and avoid any vocal tension that some people feel with more traditional warm-ups.

Invite your singers to take a deep inhaling breath as they lift their arms above their heads (if they're able and willing). Instead of exhaling, give them a verbal cue that elicits a vocal response.

Encourage them to embody the emotion or character in their bodies as they make the corresponding sound.

WHY:

All of these prompts can elicit a noise that encompasses pitch changes, timbres, vowels, and actions that have cultural capital. Everyone seems to innately know the tune, even without spelling it out. It's a fun way to get silly, so connect our voice to our emotions, and to connect our bodies to our voices, without scaring away anyone who's never made the weird noises a choir often makes!

EXTENSIONS / IDEAS:

You can use this as a circle exercise to encourage individual voices to play, and the choir to respond. Give creative hybrid prompts like: "Santa is slumping on the couch after a long day", or "The witch stubs her toe right in the middle of an evil cackle". Encourage physicality.

VIDEO LINK:



PRESENTER:
Chris Blain

PROMPT IDEAS

- "A satisfied sigh" ahhh
- "That's not fair" ohhhh
- "You can't catch me" nieh
- "So naughty" amaaah
- "Just got the joke" ahhh
- "So tasty" mmmm
- "This is so heavy" ugh
- "So cute" awww
- "That's gross" eww
- "Worst dad joke ever" daaad
- "Mum won't let you go" Mum
- "Tarzan" oh
- "Pirate" niargh
- "Witch's cackle" nieh
- "Wolf's cry" aroo
- "Evil laugh" mwah ha ha
- "Cowboy" yeehaw