

Accent Aware Focus Group - Consent Form

I consent to participate in this research study as part of an MA in Voice Pedagogy Research Project. I understand that my participation is voluntary, that I may withdraw at any time without penalty, and that any information I provide will be handled confidentially and used for research purposes only.

I Consent *



Yes

Gender *



Female



Male



Non-Binary



Prefer not to say

Age Range *

- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-49
- ☐ 50-64
- ☒ 65-79
- ☐ 80+
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What is your first Language? Do you speak any other languages? Please answer below. *

English, A level French and German

Where were you born/raised? *

Bishop Stortford

What is your current location, and how long have you lived in this region? *

Lived in Bath for 10 years

What would you say is your accent and/or dialect? *

Home Counties

How many years have you been conducting choirs? *

- ☐ less than one year
- ☐ 1-5 years
- ☐ 5-10 years
- ☐ 10-15 years
- ☐ 15-20 years
- ☒ 20+ years

What is your level of Music Training? *

- ☐ Informal
- ☐ College/A-Level
- ☐ Conservatoire
- ☒ BA/BMus
- ☐ MA/MMus
- ☐ Doctorate
- ☐ Other:

Have you received any training in Singing Diction? Please describe. *

Yes through the ABRSM

Have you received any training in Choral Diction? Please Describe. *

ABRSM (as above)

Diction Statements - Agree or Disagree?

Below are statements related to Choral Diction. Please read these statements and choose your response, from a sliding scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (Strongly agree) with the option of 'unsure' also being available.

Choirs should aim for a 'neutral' accent in all situations. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	Strong Agree

When making choral diction choices, there is a difference between Classical Choral and Choral Pops repertoire.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Strongly Agree

Certain choral genres sound more authentic when their diction matches a specific accent. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	Strongly Agree

Tuning and blend improves when choir members use the same diction. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	Strongly Agree

Training in Choral Diction is outdated, for the needs of modern choirs and choral repertoire. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

If there was an updated handbook or training course on Choral Diction I would utilise this resource. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	Strongly Agree

How would you describe your current approach to diction in choral music? *

Understand the genre and then aim for choral diction that suits it.

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Prefer not to say

Age Range *



18-24



25-34



35-49



50-64



65-79



80+



Prefer not to say

What is your first Language? Do you speak any other languages? Please answer below. *

English. - intermediate French

Where were you born/raised? *

London

What is your current location, and how long have you lived in this region? *

Deal Kent England 20 years on and off

What would you say is your accent and/or dialect? *

London

How many years have you been conducting choirs? *

- ☐ less than one year
- ☐ 1-5 years
- ☐ 5-10 years
- ☒ 10-15 years
- ☐ 15-20 years
- ☐ 20+ years

What is your level of Music Training? *

- ☐ Informal
- ☐ College/A-Level
- ☐ Conservatoire
- ☒ BA/BMus
- ☐ MA/MMus
- ☐ Doctorate
- ☐ Other:

Have you received any training in Singing Diction? Please describe. *

Solo singing lessons - a little eg singing in Italian

Have you received any training in Choral Diction? Please Describe. *

Only general about articulating on choir leader courses

Diction Statements - Agree or Disagree?

Below are statements related to Choral Diction. Please read these statements and choose your response, from a sliding scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (Strongly agree) with the option of 'unsure' also being available.

Choirs should aim for a 'neutral' accent in all situations. *

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Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	Strong Agree

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Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	Strongly Agree

Certain choral genres sound more authentic when their diction matches a specific accent. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Tuning and blend improves when choir members use the same diction. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	Strongly Agree

Training in Choral Diction is outdated, for the needs of modern choirs and choral repertoire. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	Strongly Agree

If there was an updated handbook or training course on Choral Diction I would utilise this resource. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Strongly Agree

How would you describe your current approach to diction in choral music? *

Informal trying to unify and communicate well with audiences

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50-64



65-79



80+



Prefer not to say

What is your first Language? Do you speak any other languages? Please answer below. *

English

Where were you born/raised? *

UK

What is your current location, and how long have you lived in this region? *

Wales - 14 years

What would you say is your accent and/or dialect? *

English?

How many years have you been conducting choirs? *

☐ less than one year

☐ 1-5 years

☐ 5-10 years

☒ 10-15 years

☐ 15-20 years

☐ 20+ years

What is your level of Music Training? *

- ☐ Informal
- ☐ College/A-Level
- ☒ Conservatoire
- ☐ BA/BMus
- ☐ MA/MMus
- ☐ Doctorate
- ☐ Other:

Have you received any training in Singing Diction? Please describe. *

RCM post grad
.....

Have you received any training in Choral Diction? Please Describe. *

Private lessons with Sarah Tenant-Flowers. Various courses eg Neil Ferris with Sonoro.
.....

Diction Statements - Agree or Disagree?

Below are statements related to Choral Diction. Please read these statements and choose your response, from a sliding scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (Strongly agree) with the option of 'unsure' also being available.

Choirs should aim for a 'neutral' accent in all situations. *

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Strongly Disagree	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	Strong Agree

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Certain choral genres sound more authentic when their diction matches a specific accent. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	Strongly Agree

Tuning and blend improves when choir members use the same diction. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Strongly Agree

Training in Choral Diction is outdated, for the needs of modern choirs and choral repertoire. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

If there was an updated handbook or training course on Choral Diction I would utilise this resource. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

How would you describe your current approach to diction in choral music? *

Looking to achieve blend through uniform pronunciation

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Prefer not to say

What is your first Language? Do you speak any other languages? Please answer below. *

English. I also speak German, French and Italian

Where were you born/raised? *

Essex, England

What is your current location, and how long have you lived in this region? *

London, 40 years

What would you say is your accent and/or dialect? *

RP

How many years have you been conducting choirs? *

- ☐ less than one year
- ☐ 1-5 years
- ☐ 5-10 years
- ☐ 10-15 years
- ☒ 15-20 years
- ☐ 20+ years

What is your level of Music Training? *

- ☐ Informal
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- ☒ MA/MMus
- ☐ Doctorate
- ☐ Other:

Have you received any training in Singing Diction? Please describe. *

I was a professional singer long before I became a conductor, and had regular singing lessons between the ages of 12 and 35. Diction was a part of these.

Have you received any training in Choral Diction? Please Describe. *

Not a great deal. I take advantage of any CPD that's going though, and things to do with pronunciation do come up in workshops for conductors occasionally

Diction Statements - Agree or Disagree?

Below are statements related to Choral Diction. Please read these statements and choose your response, from a sliding scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (Strongly agree) with the option of 'unsure' also being available.

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Certain choral genres sound more authentic when their diction matches a specific accent. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	Strongly Agree

Tuning and blend improves when choir members use the same diction. *

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Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Strongly Agree

Training in Choral Diction is outdated, for the needs of modern choirs and choral repertoire. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

If there was an updated handbook or training course on Choral Diction I would utilise this resource. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

How would you describe your current approach to diction in choral music? *

I think it's very important and I try to match the diction I'm asking for to the style of the music.

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What is your first Language? Do you speak any other languages? Please answer below. *

First Languages: English and Tamil. I spoke basic Kannada and still have a low level of understanding. I studied French at school and am low level conversant. I studied a tiny amount of Spanish at Uni.

Where were you born/raised? *

Born India. Moved to Scotland (Aberdeen) when aged 4. Moved back to India for ages 8-10. Moved back to Scotland aged 10 for one year in Edinburgh, then moved back to Aberdeen for 1 year, then lived in Edinburgh till aged 24.

What is your current location, and how long have you lived in this region? *

London, since 2002 (24yrs, the longest single location of my life so far). I'm 48 so this also constitutes half my life.

What would you say is your accent and/or dialect? *

Middle American base/English sound with prevalent Scottish features. The American comes from playing with American kids in that first year back in India age 8 and the Scottish is a softer Scots because of the Edinburgh influence not being so 'aggressive' a sound.

How many years have you been conducting choirs? *

- ☐ less than one year
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- ☐ 15-20 years
- ☒ 20+ years

What is your level of Music Training? *

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- ☐ BA/BMus
- ☐ MA/MMus
- ☐ Doctorate

☒ Other:

I only have a Grd7 on piano and never studied music at Uni. But I have been trained through the Choral Music Experience (CME) pedagogical professional development programme and have achieved their Artist Teacher certification.

Have you received any training in Singing Diction? Please describe. *

Very basic. Through the last decade of professional development and training opportunities running MDBrunch, I have exposed myself to workshops and teachings from many great vocal leaders. But I have received no targeted personal study and I've only had 1.5 singing lessons in my life. I have run choirs for 32 years so I have a fair amount of experience, but lots of missing gaps in my training. I was a pianist who became an MD in Am Dram shows in Edinburgh that grew into more professional shows and when I moved to London, the show choruses became choirs and now I lead a LOT of singing. I know how to coach basic singing sound and this works for the kind of music and project and outreach work that I do a lot of: primary/school/community/corporate workshop.

Have you received any training in Choral Diction? Please Describe. *

Through my work and observation of other great choral leaders, I've picked up some things along the way. But I'm sorely lacking in this arena and need to do something about it. I am, also though, not interested to work in 'choral' sound; in terms of western historical art music forms so there is less motivation to go down that pathway.

Diction Statements - Agree or Disagree?

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also being available.

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Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Strongly Agree

Tuning and blend improves when choir members use the same diction. *

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Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Strongly Agree

Training in Choral Diction is outdated, for the needs of modern choirs and choral repertoire. *

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Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

If there was an updated handbook or training course on Choral Diction I would utilise this resource. *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Strongly Agree

How would you describe your current approach to diction in choral music? *

Reactive, collaborative and demanding.

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