

Knowing What and Knowing How

Kim Wonders, International Faculty, Master Director Metro Nashville Chorus

“What Makes a Good Chorus Director” by Mary Lou Vargas-Bales Bay Area Showcase Chorus 2003

1. Good directors must have good COMMUNICATION skills.
Communication must be done in a positive manner.
2. Good directors are able to FOCUS.
They tell us what they want and what they expect from us and they don't waste their time.
3. Good directors are RISK-TAKERS and learn from their success and failures.
They know to listen to and reward the risk-takers in their chorus.
4. Good directors are TRUSTWORTHY!
Their behaviors reflect their beliefs'.
5. Good directors EMPOWER others with the ability to help themselves.
They encourage proactive efforts.
They don't micro-manage.
They listen to everyone's suggestions and incorporate those ideas that are worthy.
They give positive feedback and know that's critical.
6. Good directors learn what MOTIVATES their chorus members.
They motivate their members with praise, appreciation, recognition, and the truth about problems.
7. Good directors are NON-JUDGEMENTAL and NON-BLAMING.
They steer clear of negative assumptions and generalizations.
8. Good directors focus chorus members on the POSITIVE FUTURE.
They give praise to people for their accomplishments and keep focused on building a better situation.
9. Good directors VALIDATE.
They praise members for their positive qualities and accomplishments.
They find the goos and praise it.
10. Good directors believe in INCLUSIVENESS.
They invite participation.
11. Good directors are OPTIMISTIC.
They focus on the future, a better future.
12. Good directors have a sense of HUMOR!
They don't take every aspect of governing the chorus so darn seriously.
They're not afraid to appear vulnerable.
They easily subdue their ego and are the first to admit when they are wrong.
13. Good directors are LIFE-LONG LEARNERS.
They continue to learn and grow so that their chorus will improve.