

What Do Young People Learn While Singing in a Choir?

When you become aware that your voice is heard above the others and you blend voices, you learn **teamwork**.

When you follow your music director's hands through a series of meter and dynamic changes, you learn **accuracy** and **focus**.

When you begin to appreciate, or "grow into" a piece of music, you learn **patience**.

When you refrain from talking and interrupting in rehearsal, you learn **respect**.

When you listen and concentrate during rehearsals, and when you practice faithfully at home, you learn **self-discipline**.

When you sing in different languages, you begin to **see the world**.

When you don't get the solo you wanted and congratulate the person who did, you learn **good sportsmanship** and **graciousness**.

When you go singing at a nursing home you learn **compassion** and **community involvement**.

When you choose a rehearsal or performance over a special event, you learn **commitment** and **passion**.

When you bound out of your singing positions to give a "high five" because you finally sang your most difficult piece straight for the first time, you learn **perseverance**.

When you perform your first solo in front of an audience, you learn **risk-taking** and **self-confidence**.

When you work hard in concerts and see how you have touched the audience, you learn genuine **gratitude** and **thankfulness**.

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Research shows time and again that students have only to gain from involvement in choral singing and the arts. A well-organized, sustained education in music gives children and youth intellectual and creative skills that last a lifetime.