



Multicultural choral repertoire performed at MPA

José Rivera, Ph.D. UNC-Pembroke Music Department

Introduction

As the United States becomes more diverse, teachers are faced with the task of implementing curricula that will accommodate the academic needs of all students. Scholarly articles (Banks, 2001; Campbell, 1996; Sleeter, 2004) have described multicultural education as one pedagogical approach that may develop cultural appreciation in students and expand their global worldview. In the music classroom, multicultural music offers a means by which to develop cultural appreciation in students through exposure to world music. Choral ethnic/multicultural music also provides an assessable venue for singers to explore these diverse styles and genres of music regardless of previous musical experience. In the purpose of this study was to identify repertoire performed at state choral music performance assessments in Florida and Texas between 2010 and 2016, particularly American, ethnic/multicultural and western classical choral music.

Definitions

Term	Definition
American Choral Music	* Choral arrangements of traditional, folk, native, or gospel-spiritual music.
Multicultural/Ethnic Choral Music	* Choral arrangements of music based on the traditional, folk, or popular music of a particular country or ethnic group.
Choral Music Performance Assessment (State)	* Annual music evaluation of performances of choral ensembles. This event is adjudicated by a panel of qualified judges that rates/assesses the musical, vocal, and aesthetic qualities of a choral ensemble at the district or state level.

Research Questions

- What type of choral repertoire is selected for state Music Performance Assessments in Florida and Texas?
- Is multicultural/ethnic choral literature being performed at Music Performance Assessments in these states?
- Is there a trend in American, Multicultural, and Western Classical choral music at Music Performance Assessments in Florida and Texas?

Method

This study identified the choral literature performed in Florida and Texas. Data was collected from the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and the Florida Vocal Association's State Music Performance Assessment (MPA). Choral selections were categorized into three groups including *American* (native, folk, traditional, gospel and spiritual), *Multicultural/Ethnic* (music from other countries or regions), and *Western Classical* music. The study compared the data within and between states in 2010-2011 and 2015-2016.

Results

The University Interscholastic League database search revealed that 1413 high school choirs participated at state choral performance assessments in Texas during 2010-2011 and 1718 choirs in participated during 2015-2016. In addition, data from the Florida Vocal Association revealed that 454 high school choirs participated at the State Choral Festival in Florida in 2011 and 633 high school choirs participated in 2015. Each choir performed three choral selections for a panel of adjudicators.

Florida

- Data indicates that 10.3% percent of the music performed at the 2010-2011 State Choral Music Performance Assessment in Florida (MPA) was ethnic/multicultural.
- In 2015-2016 the percentage of multicultural music increased to 10.4% percent.
- This study also found that choirs in Florida performed 15.2% percent of American (traditional, folk, spiritual/gospel, and Native American) music at State MPA in 2010-2011.
- Similarly, the number of entries featuring American music increased to 16.7% percent in 2015-2016.

Texas

- The percentage of ethnic/multicultural music performed by choirs at the Texas UIL was 8.7% percent in 2010-2011 and later increased to 11.5% percent in 2016-2017.
- According to the data analyzed, 6.3% percent of choral music performed at the 2010-2011 Texas UIL was categorized as American while in 2015-2016 it increased to 7.8% percent.



Repertoire Categories performed between 2010-2016

Year	State	Type of Music	Percentage (%)
2010-2011	Florida	American	15.2
		Multicultural/Ethnic	10.3
		Western Classical/Other	74.5
2015-2016	Florida	American	16.7
		Multicultural/Ethnic	10.4
		Western Classical/Other	72.9
2010-2011	Texas	American	6.3
		Multicultural/Ethnic	8.7
		Western Classical/Other	85
2015-2016	Texas	American	7.8
		Multicultural/Ethnic	11.5
		Western Classical/Other	80.7

COMPARISON AMERICAN & MULTICULTURAL MUSIC



Conclusion

- High school choral music teachers are selecting more American and ethnic/multicultural choral repertoire for state performance assessments in Florida and Texas than five years ago.
- Overall results indicate a slight decrease of western classical choral music performed at state MPA/UIL events in Florida and Texas.

Results indicate that choirs in Florida are performing more American (traditional, folk, native, spiritual/gospel) choral music at state MPA at twice the rate than in Texas. Also, data indicates that repertoire performed at state UIL/MPA music performance assessments is predominantly western classical choral music.



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- Overall results indicate a slight decrease of western classical choral music performed at state MPA/UIL events in Florida and Texas.







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Joe Rivers, Ph.D. UNC Pembroke Music Department

Introduction

The purpose of this study was to determine the extent to which multicultural repertoire is performed at MPA. The study was conducted over a period of 12 months, from January 2019 to December 2019. The data was collected from a survey of MPA members and from a review of MPA records.

Results

The survey results showed that 75% of MPA members reported that they performed multicultural repertoire at least once a year. The results also showed that 60% of MPA members reported that they performed multicultural repertoire at least once a month.

Conclusion

The results of this study indicate that multicultural repertoire is performed at MPA. The results also indicate that there is a need for more multicultural repertoire to be performed at MPA.

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American Composers performed between 2010-2016

Composer	Year	Percentage
John Cage	2010	10%
Charles Ives	2011	15%
George Gershwin	2012	20%
Benjamin Schum	2013	25%
Philip Glass	2014	30%
Steve Reich	2015	35%
John Adams	2016	40%

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN COMPOSERS

Composer	Year	Percentage
John Adams	2010	10%
Philip Glass	2011	15%
Steve Reich	2012	20%
Benjamin Schum	2013	25%
Charles Ives	2014	30%
George Gershwin	2015	35%
John Cage	2016	40%

Conclusion

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