

Gesture Matters!

An Interactive Gesture Refresher

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Part One: Don't Mind Me... I'm Just Waving My Arms

- Would you trust a surgeon who could not use a scalpel?
- Too many conductors underestimate the power of their conducting gesture.
- Concise, clear conducting can and should communicate powerful messages to your singers.
- Great gesture can create efficiency in the choral rehearsal.
- Stop beating time! Commit to improving your gesture DAILY!

Part Two: Advanced Conducting Gestures

Gesture of Syncopation

- A gesture used when an entrance occurs on a syncopated beat.
- Three elements involved in a GOS
 - **The Stop**-----One FULL beat ahead of the syncopated entrance
 - **The Click**-----A small “click” on the ictus or downbeat
 - **The Zip**----To and from the Stop
- This gesture is often overlooked or unknown. It can be a timesaver in rehearsal and incredibly valuable in performance.

Managed Preparatory Gesture

- This gesture is used when the conductor and/or music calls for a lift or break *between* beats
- Two elements involved in a MPG
 - **The Stop**——On the beat immediately preceding the lift
 - **The Zip**——Occurring after the stop to return the gesture to the original tempo

Minimization or Negation

- Negation or minimization is the simple act of reducing the gesture size prior to an important musical event (entrance, release, GOS, MPG, etc.)
- The ensemble will always respond to change in our patterns, especially once we have established predictability with them. This is what makes this a *powerful* tool.

Part Three: Gesture Mapping

- Score study is a crucial part of the preparation process for rehearsal. A small part of that process should include “Gesture Mapping”.
- Gesture Mapping is the process of making gestural decisions ahead of time during the score study process using a series of markings.
- Some gestures to consider: the MPG, the GOS, left hand considerations, releases, and entrances.
- Gesture markings can be personal to you, there is no fixed system for these.