

Greek Chorus Performance and Choral Tools & Text Analysis

PERFORMANCE TOOLS:

- **Slow Ten Teka Ten**
 - Walk forward very slowly. Try to keep even Tempo. (you must shift your weight...forward) Keep the movement consistent. (no checking the space before you enter it/step such as flicking and/or Coast is clear)
- **Clumps**
 - Using peripheral vision maintain your same shape as you move through the space using the slow walk technique. Not everyone in the clump has to have the same steps, but you must maintain the same 'global position'.
 - Have the groups move around the room in the clumps
 - Once the clumps are moving together have them face each other and to where they "collide" each clump must make it through other clump while still staying intact as a clump.
- **Four Corners**
 - Whole group into a large clump. All facing one direction
 - One person becomes the leader (the forward most person)
 - The leader leads the group in some type of movement. As they turn the whole group turns the new front person becomes the leader and continues
 - When the group begins to move as one in more than just steps (bring in other movements). As the movements turn and change, so can the leader. Whoever is the most forward should take on the leadership role. In the beginning the group leader should shift as the group turns.
- **Flocking**
 - An extension of Four Corners -- Later on in the exercise as you begin to 'flock like birds' or 'school like fish' the leader may stay the same as the group movement becomes quicker (not fast) and more organic.
- **Statues**
 - First pose is statue. Must be with the heels off the ground. Does not have to be a complete releve. Imagine nail in ball of foot. Can pivot but not lift.
 - Next pose: "hunker down"=squat with flat feet, arms relaxed but NOT on the ground. Head down.
 - Should be a "like a blink" - fast and agile between each pose. Must radically change pose and freeze again, still up off heels.

CHORAL TOOLS:

- **Chants** - the quality/intensity of speech
 - Low Chant - The personal choice or story (last night at rehearsal I heard this)-"to you"
 - Medium chant-addressing a group. Voice a little louder than normal. Make sure voice is heard above the group. Careful with diction. "A little bit more formal"
 - High chant-"I have a dream", speaking to a greater idea. Something of import.(really poetic language)- "To the world"
- **Building**
 - Sharing the line -
 - 1 person well, 1 person here, 1 person we, 1 person are
 - 1 person well, 1 people here, 3 people here, all are
 - Etc.
 - You can go from one to many or many to one
 - Repetition -
 - 1 person well, 1 person here, 1 person we, 1 person we, 1 person we, 1 person we, 1 person we, 1 person we, 1 person we, 1 person are.
- **Unison**
 - Takes (eats) time if you want it to sound good. Cannot happen without the text analysis
- **Wax/Wane Voices**
 - Fading in and out
 - Wax: increase. Wane: decrease

Text analysis:

- **Operative word** - What is the thing that deserves the most emphasis?
 - Secondary stress- After the main word, what gets the next most importance? Decide so your chorus is all together
- **Elongation** - deciding how long/short words are pronounced
 - Where to use them and how the impact changes as you use them
 - Are we paying special attention to a word or are we running through it.
- **Thought Line** - (how many thoughts? One, two, more? Where are the thoughts?)
- **Punctuation** - finding the rhythm of the piece.
 - (game to find rhythm)- Comma is a snap period is a clap, it just helps everyone get on the same page of pauses and what not. Use it for the analysis portion only, not in your final performance (unless you want to)