Topics Being Addressed:

1. **How can we keep students motivated without live performances, field trips or competitions in the foreseeable future?**

Innovative Lesson Ideas:
- Create "Solo" opportunities for students to perform in a virtual concert
- Create small vocal ensembles to perform virtually/present to community
- Mini virtual concerts where students can sing solo or work within a small group (using collaborative technology such as SoundTrap) to create content
- MusicFirst to track student performance/growth
- Small group voice classes (sections within an ensemble/class period)
- Teach a sibling/Parent how to sing a scale using hand signs

Have the students Create!
- Students compose a warm up using musescore
- Allow students to make a song into an a cappella rendition
- Make a 'tiny desk' concert with a chamber group, and turn the keys over to the students
- 'Produce' short presentations, with high production value
- Soundtrack, BandLab, Garageband composition projects (In collaboration with each other)
- Cover a song in a different style

The Big Picture:
- Define your program goals and objectives -what can you grow in your students besides just performance skills?
- Identify student goals so that they buy into the program - questionnaire on day 1 - what do students want to learn about music? What piques their interest?
- Find ways to keep the kids/program visible in the school & community at large, maintain and build a presence
- Find ways to create community! Have an 'ice breaker' event at the beginning of the year - Meme Contests - Informal gatherings
  - Silly Warm Ups in Zoom!
  - Scavenger Hunts
- Changing it Up, Collaborating:
- Inviting guest clinicians
- Commission new works specifically suited for virtual choir

Other Best Practices:
- Online Audition Process (JW)
- Movement activities
- Maintain your integrity of the start of school - seating audition during first week

2. **Enriching Virtual Practices: How do we keep 30+ students engaged outside of our classrooms?** *Many responses above (question 1) also address this question*

- Emphasis on community building - Learn about students through out-of-musical contexts, weekly Zoom "Game Night" ML
- Discussion Boards (Canvas, Flipgrid, etc) In critiquing performances, sharing concepts and videos of music. Students must both contribute song choices, as well as comment on at least two threads above theirs.
- Zoom Cabarets, Masked Singer . . . The Voice events
- Create opportunities for Student-Designed Virtual Performances that go beyond traditional choral performances (themed concerts, solos, collaborations with peers, etc.)
- Put Students in charge of editing and creating "virtual ensembles".
- Use Choir Creator for virtual choir performances.
- Choir Boards (weekly assignments that the students get to choose from) a la Doreen Fryling
- Small group performances through Acapella App (mostly free up to 60 seconds)
- Invitations for discussions with composers or guest clinicians in Zoom/Google Meets
- Collaborations with other schools on a virtual choir project
- Rehearse/Record using upbeatmusicapp.com (currently only available for Chrome)

3. **Engaging In-Person Instruction:**

For Performing Musicians:
- As of now, outside rehearsals and use of auditorium with social distancing
- We were told not to plan on singing/playing instruments *in school*. If the weather allows us to go outdoors to sing, we can, but we shouldn't "plan" on it. Also, we were told that our classes would be live streamed to those who are at home learning virtually.
- Discuss/Critique/Analyze great virtual or live choir performances in the US and around the world (The Aeolians, Tenebrae, The Sixteen, Chanticleer, etc.)
- Discuss/Critique/Analyze different genres
- For singing indoors: Focus on individual vocal performances and smaller ensembles using the Singer's Mask, Face Shield, plexiglass around piano, portable air filtration system - minimum spacing of 6 feet apart in a large space with (if possible) open windows and doors.
- For outdoor singing: Sing with Singers Mask 6 feet apart with a tent and outdoor Wifi extenders. Locate the tent near a bathroom & request a portable disinfecting station.
- Focus on other areas of our music-making we often wish we had more time to discuss (poetry, composition style, history and culture, additional readings/responses that relate to social justice, etc.
- Collect data from each student during your Zoom/Google Meet by engaging them in class discussion: Rotate student class contribution; use hand sign icon for simple formative assessment tasks; etc.
- Reinforce music theory and sightreading using data collecting software
- Zoom in guest clinicians (like Heather Buchanan from Montclair State) for workshops on mindfulness & alignment
- Mindfulness with Yoga Voice or Social Emotional Learning
- Solo Singing Vocal Workshop for students who want to participate: give them opportunities to showcase songs from their culture

For Non-Performing Musicians (only signed up to fulfill graduation requirement):
- Bitmoji Music Mansion with themed rooms tied to curriculum:Why teachers are buzzing about bitmoji virtual classrooms
- Use The Practice Room for sight singing

- Create "major group projects": Each student can have his/her own role within the project - have cohorts create their own concert program for a concert being recorded by their peers in the auditorium. Students have to choice to sing with their cohort or simply concentrate on writing program notes, developing publicity, write lyrics for collaborative songs, etc.
- Use edpuzzle - free access and account that connects to Google Classroom.

4. Safety Precautions/Recommendations for In-Person Instruction:

- No more than 10 students at a time. Everyone wears masks, even while singing. Everyone 6 feet apart at minimum.. Class held outside as often as possible, or in auditorium or gym. When inside, exhaust fans in the door.
- One way traffic in your chorus room - wipe down all shared surfaces. No shared materials ML
- 30 minutes between classes to "refresh the air" [But who has this time??] ML
- Low-latency intercom system for small group lessons [need to do research]
- Auditorium with masks approximately 10-12' apart
- Conditions For Learning: Safety Guidelines
- Request HEPA air filters in the HVAC system if there is no HEPA air filters in the system
- Use NFHS guidelines from aerosol study
- Singers Mask or Resonance Singers Mask whenever singing is involved (indoors or outdoors)
- MERV filters in HVAC system
- Remove all chairs (use music stands only & wipe down between classes), tape floor with markings (X) minimum 6 feet apart. If school does not pay to change all air fliters, ask for a portable HEPA air filtration system that removes 99.97% of microbes from the air ($140-200 on Amazon). Read all reviews, specs & square footage before purchasing.
- Have the school use their 3D printing machine(s) to print face shields in-house.

5. Concert Considerations:

- Live stream, with performers 6 feet apart.
- Live stream with smaller groups
- Outdoor "under the stars" style concerts, public spaces, amphitheatres - live-streamed, nice camera angles. ML
- YouTube Premiere ML
- Create virtual performance opportunities that combine a virtual choir, solos, virtual duets, etc., and other arts such as visual arts and poetry to create opportunities for students who are not comfortable singing outside choir
- Virtual choir: can be a collaboration across all choirs in your program, across the district, or in collaboration with other school districts (cultural exchange program).
- Something shareable!

6. Successful Lesson Plans for Hybrid and/or Remote Teaching:

- Mark Stingle Resources
- Matt Lee - JP Stevens Lesson Plans 2019-20 (Inspired by Doreen Fryling, made in collaboration with my student teacher!)
- Libby - East Orange Campus HS Lesson Plans 2020 for asynchronous teaching

7. Useful Resources:

Planning for Your Choir in Uncertain Times – A Framework (by Canada's Provincial Choral Organizations and Choral Canada members)

The Future of Ensembles Committee NYSSMA:
http://www.nyssma.org/advocacy/nyssma-covid-19-guidance/the-future-of-ensembles-committee/

The "Singers Mask": https://www.broadwayreliefproject.com/singersmask

Band Lab: www.bandlab.com

Bitmoji Classroom Google Drive Resources: tinyurl.com/bitmojidrive

ChorAmor (Facebook group), Derrick Fox Resource Compilation
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17H3E69HcThQTdwn_7MyX59arYHqnMgIA?usp=sharing

Musictheory.net

Sight Reading Factory

Flipgrid.com

Covid-19 Aerosol Transmission Estimator

ACDA Western Region Face-to-Face Instruction Model:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P7V9rpcIXOIR3Hk-EMEoVYUPQZgNB87l/view?usp=sharing

ACDA Western Region Hybrid Instruction Model:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CEy7G_SCv2xHjCOD4kyJGiUsn4ujNJtM/view?usp=sharing

ACDA Western Region Online Instruction Model:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r5bP44XOmstRMmfgDKe1Y-4cpADqJ4X2/view?usp=sharing

Additional Resources

List of Resources	https://www.savethemusic.org/grants/teacher-resources/
What do Singers expect from Conductors while they rehearse remotely?	https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2020/0421/1132807-choirs-lockdown-pandemic-coronavirus/
Zoom Games for Families	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnWUvpMQOpw
How to Host Virtual Rehearsals	https://blog.chorusconnection.com/virtual-learning-taking-your-choir-rehearsals-online
Platforms for Hosting Virtual Choir Tracks	https://blog.chorusconnection.com/7-platforms-for-recording-and-sharing-chorus-rehearsal-tracks
Logistical Considerations for Teaching Music Online	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PgT9TXExC-Q
Getting Ready for Online Music Lessons with Zoom	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9812NucA0o

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