



A Monthly Newsletter for Band, Orchestra & Choral Directors



Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of **Shop Talk**, our informational newsletter for band, choral and orchestra directors. This newsletter will be sent to you on a monthly basis and will give you tips in music pedagogy, travel and destinations. Plus, we will occasionally highlight the latest and greatest information on music festivals, new attractions and changes in the industry.

Kaleidoscope Adventures is committed to providing you with peace-of-mind travel. We have an accomplished staff of professionals that will answer all of your needs with service-oriented solutions. We offer only the best hotels, attractions, shopping, restaurants, dinner shows and destination services for youth groups. Our service is second to none!

We hope you enjoy this first edition newsletter. Feel free to call us anytime to learn more about the services we can provide you and your group.

Robin

Robin Parker, President & CEO

Sight-Reading Tips for Bands and Orchestras

For a FREE Trip Quote, call us

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Top 10 Student Destinations:

1. Orlando, FL
2. New York, NY
3. Washington DC
4. Atlanta, GA
5. Boston, MA
6. Chicago, IL

Sight-reading can induce fear in any musician, including the director. So what can the music director do to help relieve this fear and help their students build this all-important skill?

Although there have been many articles written on this subject, many do agree on a few items. Most teachers suggest that students approach sight-reading in a methodical way. First, many agree that the director must give students a few minutes of quiet time to look over the piece of music or section of music, either physically humming the music or hearing it in their head and moving the keys or fingers on their instruments in coordination with their humming. Although this practice presumes that the student has a solid foundation in ear training, most directors believe that this technique gives the student a better chance at sight-reading the music. Second, the students must look at common and melodic patterns. To master this technique, the director should strengthen sight-reading skills by spending time in rehearsals and lessons practicing common melodic and rhythmic patterns. Research has shown that students who see groups or patterns in music sight-read better than students who see individual notes. Lastly, most music directors agree that students approach sight-reading at a slow tempo. However, the director must make sure not to go too slow as to lose the musical meaning of the piece. There is new research these days that indicate that better sight-readers move at a faster tempo. No matter what the research says, the director should know his ensemble well enough to figure out what works best for the group as a whole.

Although many agree that there is no particular formula that results in making your students successful sight-readers, these techniques are widely used and will help your students make gradual progress towards the goal of being better sight-readers. Making sight-reading a priority in your weekly lesson plan will certainly be time well spent.

Boost your Choral Sight-Reading Skills Using Solfege

Most choral directors agree that sight-reading exercises should be done each time your choir meets. Investing at least five to ten minutes each day can later reap huge rewards for your choir.

7. Historic Virginia/VA Beach
8. St. Louis, MO
9. Hawaii Cruises
10. Branson, MO

Fun Fotos!

These fun fotos are from the Mount Airy Middle School Choir, Mount Airy, NC on their recent trip to Orlando and Starr's Mills H.S. Chorus of Fayetteville, GA on their recent trip to New York City.



Bob Chilton, Mount Airy Choir Director singing with Jake (of the Blues Brothers) at the House of Blues



Bob Chilton, Mount Airy Choir Director joins in singing and dancing with his choir at the Downtown Disney stage.



Starr's Mills H.S. Chorus of Fayetteville, GA

especially if you attend a festival or contest. Students who become skilled at sight-reading are also more adept at learning music more rapidly.

One successful technique used by many directors is to have students figure out the solfege of a line while sight-reading. Teaching your students solfege not only will propel them to a new level, but will enhance their musical and memory skills as well. Therefore, once they have mastered a sound pattern, it will be permanently imbedded in their memory. For example:

- Somewhere Over the Rainbow - do do ti so la ti do
- Maria (*from West Side Story*) - do fi so

By employing solfege into your lesson plan, your choir will not only be more accurate in their sight-reading skills for any upcoming contest or festival, but they will be better sight-readers and learners overall. Although running solfege drills can be very time consuming at first, the speed and accuracy of which your choir sings will dramatically increase over time.

Kaleidoscope Adventures Cares About You & Your Group

Kaleidoscope Adventures is committed to providing students, educators and parents quality care and peace-of-mind travel. Our accomplished staff, comprised of former teachers, music educators, hotel industry experts and group travel professionals, works together as a team to ensure your tour is everything you hoped for and more. Keeping your curriculum and budget objectives in mind, we listen to your needs, advise you on your best tour options, create an itinerary that works for you and provide personal attention to detail with hands-on care. By partnering with the Kaleidoscope Adventures team, you will soon realize the benefits of working with experts who know group travel. Let our team take your students beyond the classroom into a world of fun, adventure and discovery. Let us bring your classroom to life!

Walt Disney World Christmas Parade in the Magic Kingdom

Starr's Mills H.S. Chorus of Fayetteville, GA, under the direction of Dr. John Odom, performing in St. John the Devine Cathedral in New York City.



Starr's Mills H.S. Chorus posing for a picture at a workshop in New York City

Want to see your music ensemble in our newsletter? Send us your photos to:

steve@kaleidoscopeadventures.com



EHS Marching Band at Magic Kingdom

Spend the holidays at **Walt Disney World®**. Your high school band can be a part of a **Walt Disney World®** holiday tradition as you march down Main Street of the **Magic Kingdom®**.

Our package includes the following:

- 2 night hotel accommodations in Orlando
- 3 day admission to the **Magic Kingdom®** Park, **EPCOT®**, **Disney Hollywood Studios®**, and **Disney's Animal Kingdom®** Theme Park at the **Walt Disney World®** Resort
- Participation in the **Walt Disney World®** **Holiday Parade**
- 1 evening of shopping, dining and entertainment at **Downtown Disney®** West Side
- Professional tour director available 24-hours a day during your trip
- 1 Director's Gift
- Lanyards and luggage tags for all participants

Prices starting at \$199.00 quad

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Candlelight Processional at EPCOT



Candlelight Processional at EPCOT

Spend the holidays at **Walt Disney World®**. Your high school choir can be a part of an **EPCOT®** holiday tradition in a beautiful and inspirational narration of the Christmas story. Celebrity

narrators make this unique performance opportunity even more special.

Our package includes the following:

- 2 night hotel accommodations in Orlando
- 3 day admission to the **Magic Kingdom®** Park, **EPCOT®**, **Disney Hollywood Studios®**, and **Disney's Animal Kingdom®** Theme Park at the **Walt Disney World®** Resort
- Participation in the **Walt Disney World® Candlelight Processional and Massed Choir Program**
- 1 evening of shopping, dining and entertainment at **Downtown Disney®** West Side
- Professional tour director available 24 hours a day during your trip
- 1 Director's Gift
- Lanyards and luggage tags for all participants
- 1 **FREE** package, based on double occupancy, for every 20 paid

Prices starting at \$199.00 quad

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Thank you for taking time to read our first edition of Shop Talk. We look forward to your comments. We encourage you to forward this newsletter on to other music directors.

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