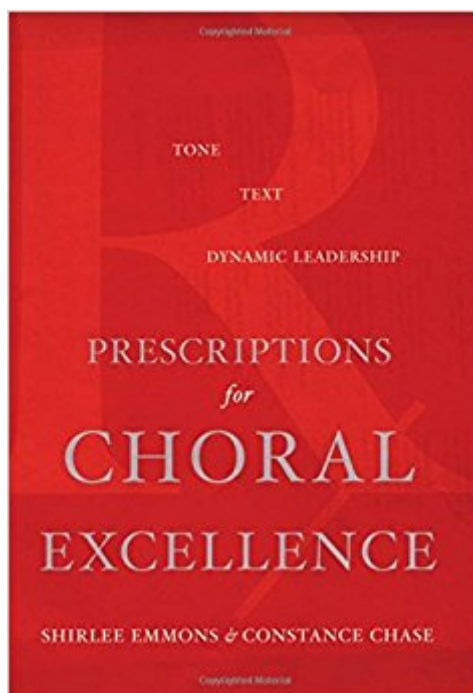


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# Prescriptions For Choral Excellence



## Synopsis

In shaping choral tone, directors often wish to improve the sound of their choir, but are challenged to pinpoint underlying problems or to guide singers toward solutions. Now, in *Prescriptions for Choral Excellence*, skilled vocal pedagogue Shirlee Emmons and leading choral director Constance Chase equip choral directors with the practical tools they need to help singers achieve peak choral performance. Drawing on years of experience, Emmons and Chase help choral directors and singers effectively diagnose and resolve problems. They cover topics ranging from breath management and diction to range and intonation, and much more. Beyond describing vocal difficulties, the book provides concrete instructions on how to apply the concepts in day-to-day rehearsal and performance. The numerous practical exercises and planning aides allow directors to maximize both time and talent to elicit the highest potential from their singers. While grounded in the most up-to-date research in voice science, the discussion of vocal anatomy and function is accessible to readers with no previous knowledge of voice science. Going beyond other vocal and choral guidebooks, the authors also apply the most current theories in leadership principles and group dynamics to choral settings, helping directors translate their natural musicality and charisma into inspiring and motivational leadership. A comprehensive and unique blend of practical expertise, voice science, and leadership psychology, *Prescriptions for Choral Excellence* is an invaluable guide for all choral directors seeking to create memorable and remarkable performances.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"As a conductor with more than thirty years' experience, I found this book to be rigorous, comprehensive, and dynamically user-friendly. The book presents an abundance of practical tools. The less experienced conductors will find this book indispensable and immediately accessible. This is a must read for choral directors at any level as well as for singers and teachers of singing."--American Music Teacher

"This book provides a wealth of vocal information for choral conductors, ranging from matters of basic technique to physical health and the effects of various medical conditions on singing. Facilitating good singing in the choral ensemble benefits everyone and serves to break down barriers, true or false, between the singer as a 'soloist' and the singer as a choral musician. This should be an essential addition to every choral conductor's reference library."--Hilary Apfelstadt, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities, The Ohio State University

"Adopting a unique format, Emmons and Chase have authored a text for every Choral Director and student of choral singing. Providing clear and concise answers to the fundamental questions of vocal technique and choral leadership, this is a text that will be read and re-read again and again. It should be a staple in every choral musician's library."--Donald Simonson, Professor of Music Voice Division Chair, Iowa State University

"The doctor is in! Prescriptions for Choral Excellence is the medicine that choral directors and singers need for success. Applying the latest principles and techniques of leadership psychology, this detailed guide is an invaluable resource for meeting many of the demands that all directors face."--Marshall Goldsmith, executive coach and author of The Leader of the Future, Coaching for Leadership and Global Leadership: The Next Generation

Shirlee Emmons is a voice teacher of considerable renown. She has taught at Columbia, Princeton, Boston, and Rutgers Universities, as well as at universities in Korea and Austria. She is author of *Tristanissimo* and co-author of *The Art of the Song Recital*, and *Power Performance for Singers*. She is an Obie award-winning singer and the first and only female Chair of the prestigious American Academy of Teachers of Singing. Constance Chase is a conductor and voice teacher noted for her expertise in training choirs and singers in vocal technique and performance. As Director of the Cadet Glee Club, United States Military Academy at West Point, she conducts scores of concerts, live national television appearances, and recordings for film and commercial release.

I am currently 30 pages into the book, and I am already convinced that it will be amazing all the way through. I'm in my senior year of college, pursuing a degree in vocal performance. I grabbed this book after noticing it in my instructor's small library, as I am planning on attending grad school for

conducting, and I found that I stumbled upon a resource that is, I feel, vital to any vocalist's knowledge. The techniques presented, along with those denounced, are spot on--every word, and it's all meticulously researched and supported. Speaking of which, references to other authors are another valuable resource of the book. I found my way to some other great teachers of voice. This book is invaluable and will help you sort through the thousands of different vocal techniques, dismissing most but highlighting the truly powerful ones.

This is a book that belongs on the shelves of every choral director. It's the one book that I use when preparing for every rehearsal. The authors present the material in a meticulously-researched, scientific manner. If your choir has a specific problem that needs to be fixed, this is the book to consult. The solutions are presented methodically and thoroughly, and everything I have used from this book has been a success with my choir. The focus is on solving choral problems through a greater understanding of vocal anatomy and physiology--that's what I love about this book. Too many other books of this type use an abstract, unscientific approach to vocal pedagogy. This is a book I'll use my whole life!!

The book is excellent! It incorporates the knowledge of a superb voice teacher and an excellent choral director. Shirlee Emmons was not just a voice teacher, but one who sought out and steeped herself in the best vocal training methods, from Berton Coffin to Richard Miller. She gave master classes, adjudicated competitions--she was a force of nature in the vocal world. She always said she didn't want to write a book about singing, but she did do that, in this book. Together with Connie Chase, the director of the West Point Glee Club, she adapted her vocal methods to the needs of choral directors. You simply cannot miss this book!

Excellent book.

This is a great resource. It gives real advice and attitude for practical application. Includes warm-up techniques and a detailed musical and rehearsal breakdowns. Almost a philosophy book, haha.

This book explained the choral experience more in depth. If you are a choral director or teacher I highly recommend this book for new ideas in achieving a higher choral experience.

Excellent book! Very helpful. A must have for sure. I am not even halfway through the book and it

has helped me and my choir sound better.

Must have!

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