



OnSite Choral Encouragement Video Series

Guiding Questions for Teachers and Students

VIDEO #4 – Words and Music

- Why did Kari have the singers sing the selection on an "ah" vowel?
- Why might you not understand the words when you listened to the singers sing the first time?
- What does Kari ask the singers to do in order that the text be more understandable?
- There seems to be a trade-off between text and music... where do you think Kari wants the singers to focus?
- What does IPA stand for?
- In what ways does this rehearsal resemble the work that you do in choir rehearsal? In what ways is it different?
- "The phonetic is part of the artistic" (24:20) — what does this mean?
- How important is it for everyone to sing the same vowel? What happens to the sound if the singers' vowels are different? Have you experienced this in your rehearsals?
- Kari ends with: "Make sure you know what the text means. Make sure you know how to pronounce each word. Make sure you have an idea of what it means. Because then the music will acquire another level. It gets an emotion through the text. Which is something that makes me a life-long fan of choral music."

Reflect on this with examples from your own work with choral music, texts and meaning.