Sami Breiland

Cultural Diversity

Dr. Ghorbani

12 December 2015

Unit Plan

Grade level: High School

Teaching area: Choral Classroom

This unit will focus on an end goal of performing songs from different cultures and areas of the world for Spring Concert. Throughout this unit I will have specific assignments for each student to complete on a different area of the world and/or culture.

I will use listening examples and also video examples of songs being sung in cultural settings so that the students experience the culture first hand. The goal of watching and listening to these examples is that the students will use the examples to correlate to how they sing the song.

I will have the students decide upon how to use different vowel shapes or tone quality to match that of what we saw in each culture. The students could even add dancing or movement to a piece we will be performing as long as they do it in a serious manner and know that the cultures interpret dancing and movement seriously.

I will assign students to write program notes that describe the character and mood of a piece we will be performing. The program notes would contain information about the style/genre/era and culture where the song originated. The students’ whose program notes are well written and contain appropriate information will be used in the program for the concert.

By assigning projects for the students to research they will not only be singing the songs but they will gain a full understanding of the cultural experience of that group. Rather than have the teacher speak at them. It will be more meaningful for the students to present on it themselves or in groups.

Pieces I would consider using:

Adiemus by Karl Jenkins

* Uses African choral traditions of using neutral syllables made to sound like Latin pronunciations.
* Uses various choral tones (throaty, traditional choral)
* Can incorporate choreography

Pengyou, Ting arranged by Carolyn Jennings

* Uses traditional Chinese melody
* Uses traditional Chinese percussion
* Students learn Chinese pronunciation

A Pescar Camaron arranged by Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

* Traditional Cuban folksong
* Uses different Afro-Cuban dance styles

Ahe Lau Makani (There is a Breath) arranged by Jerry Depuit

* Traditional Hawaiian choral
* Rare to find Hawaiian chorales