



SING
for
PLEASURE

Boys' changing voices

Don Gillthorpe

@dgillthorpe

About me

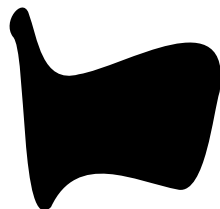
**Secondary
school
music**

**Church
music**

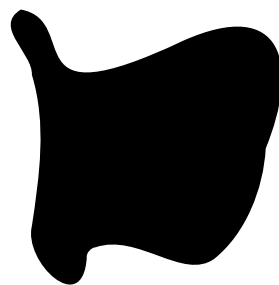
**Youth
music**

Church music: background to 'breaking'

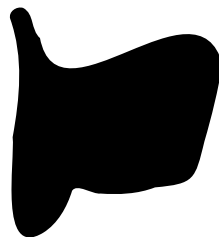
Male larynx
Pre-puberty



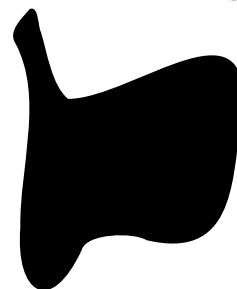
Male larynx
Post-puberty



Female larynx
Pre-puberty




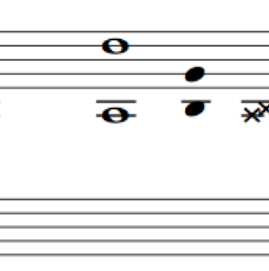
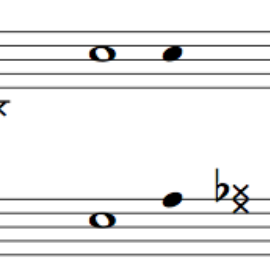



Female larynx
Post-puberty



Stages of vocal development

Based on work by John Cooksey, 1999

(read articles by Williams or Ashley for more information)

Unchanged	Stage 1 Mid-voice I	Stage 2 Mid-voice II	Stage 3 Mid-voice IIA	Stage 4 New Voice	Stage 5 Emerging Adult Voice
					

Open notes indicate extended sing range in this stage without strain

Filled notes indicate the average comfortable range of boys

Crossed note indicate range of the Speech Fundamental Frequency

Signs of voice strain

Visual

Increased jaw or neck tension

Moving head upwards

Aural

Change in tone: hoarse/scratchy/breathy/constricted sound

Change to falsetto-like sound

'Missing' notes

Behavioural

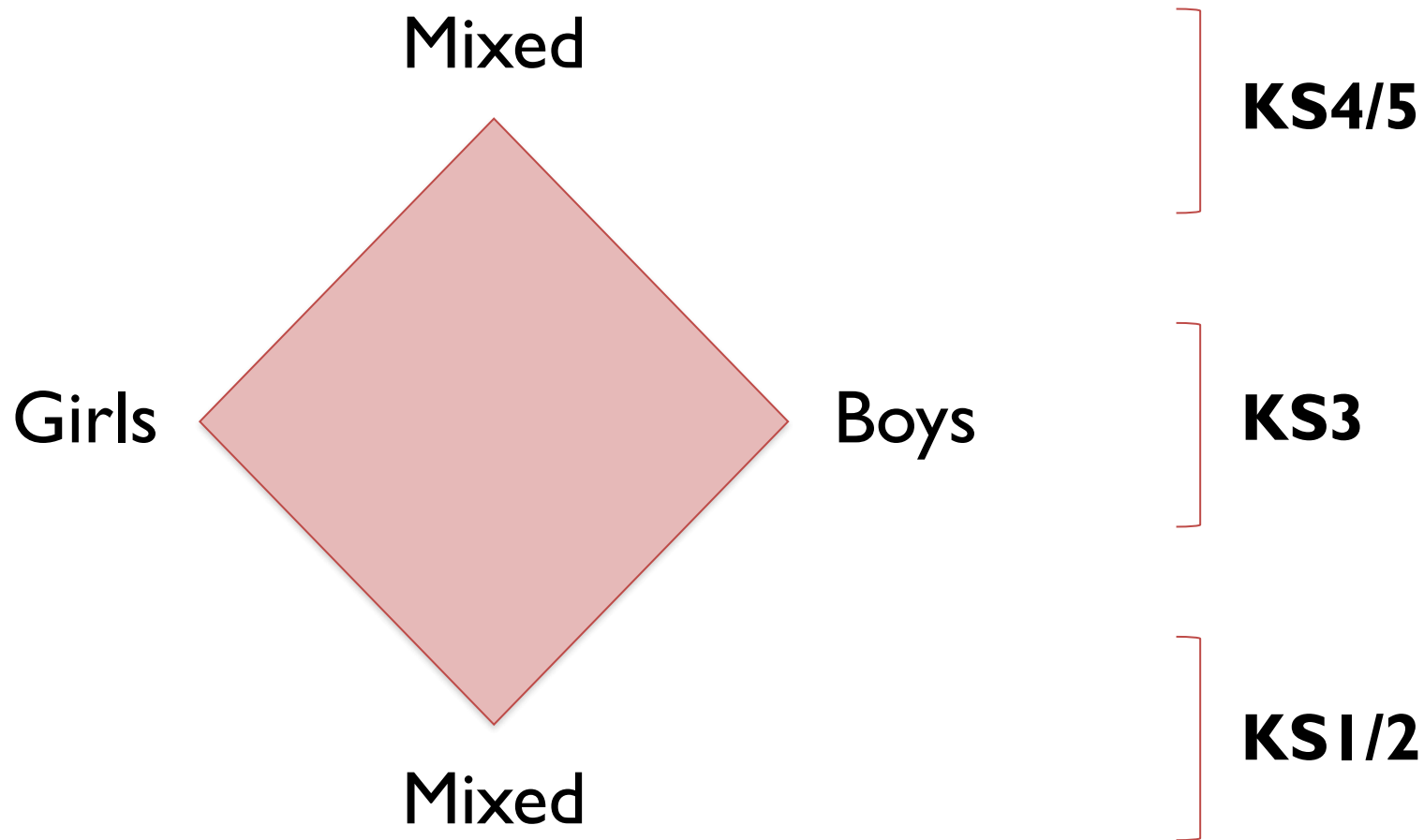
Increased reluctance to sing out

Lower attendance

Singing in the classroom

- A culture of singing takes time to take root
- Classroom music plays a pivotal role
- Split boys and girls at KS3/4
- Singing is 'what we do round here'
- Assemblies (hymn practices)
- Recruit from class to choir

School choirs: diamond structure

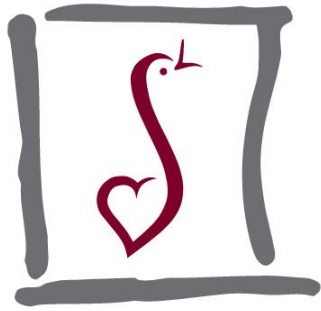


Repertoire

- Difficulty finding repertoire
- More and more appearing on the market (OUP)
- Write your own arrangements for the boys in front of you
 - Involve the boys in repertoire choice
 - Main melodic focus in the Cambiata part
 - Spread the melody throughout the parts

Key advice

- Don't panic and shy away from singing with boys
- Don't try to be cool – you're probably not
- Maintain good relationships with the boys in your class or choir to make supporting them easier
- Make sure there is plenty of challenge
- Show them that you care about them developing a love for choral singing



SING
for
PLEASURE

Boys' changing voices

Don Gillthorpe

@dgillthorpe