**Semi-structured interview schedule**

**Date: 12/06/22**

**Signature of researcher: JL**

**Name of participant: Coady (Gr. 9 Student)**

**Interviewer:** Briefly tell me about your choral singing experiences, which choirs have you sung in? How long have you been a member of this choir?

**Coady:** I went to **Highbury**; I was in that choir for a while. I joined in **Grade Three** and left in Grade Five, and in Grade Six I joined the Senior Choir as a **drummer**. I came here and have been in this choir **for two years** as a tenor. We haven’t gone on tour yet, but I am very **excited to go on a proper tour** for a good competition. It's going to be awesome. My brother was in this choir. He found choir very time-consuming.

**Interviewer:** Explain your initial reasons to join the Kearsney College Choir?

**Coady:** The **reputation** they had. It was always like “Oh my word! Do you sing in the Kearsney College Choir? **They are world champions**!”. Just the name of it, if you sing in this choir, most people will know who you are and have expectations. People know that you were good. That **drove me to join**. I didn’t expect to join the choir. I thought I wasn’t good enough. But when I heard I could join, I was very excited. I knew that **I was going to put time and dedication** into it, but I knew that the reward would be better. It's going to be an **overall amazing experience**.

**Interviewer:** What are some of the highlights of your being a member of the Kearsney College Choir?

**Coady:** You build a **nice friendship with the older boys** in the choir. You become **family**, does not matter what grade you are in. You are so close together. When you go to perform, there are so many people watching you. One thing I love about the choir or whenever you are **on stage, you forget everything else.** You don’t remember back “I have to do this and that, I have to study for this”. When you get up there, the **feeling is amazing**.

**Interviewer:** How does choral singing make you feel?

**Coady:** I **enjoy it**. Now that we are going on **tour**, I **feel so much pressure**. If I make one bad mistake, it could cost us the entire competition. I love the feeling of it but, I **feel nervous and anxious**. We spend a lot of time on that one performance. Even at Supper Theatres (fundraising, people buy tickets to watch us perform), there's not as much pressure, you might do extremely well there, but once you get on that stage overseas, it’s a whole different ball game. You don’t know everything; you expect more applause and celebrate with you. But overseas the people don’t know who you are.

**Interviewer:** Do you have friends in the choir?

**Coady:** **I have a lot of friends in the choir**.

**Interviewer:** What is unique about these friendships in the choir?

**Coady:** So many people try to **act different and act cooler who are not in the choir**. They usually **see us differently**, **usually soft.** But **friendships in the choir are real**. **Everyone is the same**, they don’t see each other differently. We know **we are all in this together**. You work together every day. The bonds we make in the choir I will never forget. **Seeing them, joking around, and having fun, I really enjoy it**.

**Interviewer:** Is there a unique brotherhood in the choir?

**Coady:** Unique. **The brotherhood with Kearsney overall is amazing**. But with the choir, there is such **a reputation**. The **boys are together** forever. The old boys never forget those memories of going to the World Choir Games, the first-time doing stuff. Even, I will never forget my first performance. The first time performing on stage with the Kearsney College Choir is up there. It’s probably one of my best memories ever.

**Interviewer:** Do you think singing in a choir can bring diverse cultures together?

**Coady:** When we sing, **we don’t just sing English songs**. **We sing Zulu songs, Austrian, and different cultures have different songs**. **Our dance moves replicate the cultures**. **We sing English songs, we sing pop songs, and every single song is different. When we sing, we all are together**. **We don’t look at each other differently in terms of race**. We know we are all in it together.

**Interviewer:** Do you think choir has a way to integrate different cultures together?

**Coady:** I think **it is very good**. **Everyone sings, doesn’t matter what culture, it’s the individual.** Because **you are good at singing and have a good voice and have a passion for singing, it certainly helps by integrating various cultures**. At the **choir camp, I stayed with one of my friends, I didn’t know much about his culture**. But after spending many hours together, **we learned so much from each other**. I would not have gotten this if I was not in the choir. I would not have understood him, but now I have more understanding for him.

**Interviewer:** What do you value most about being a member of the Kearsney College Choir?

**Coady:** I know that we have **a thing on us to win the World Choir Games**. We have the responsibility. **It's about creating new memories.** I also find with the choir that I remember so many memories.

**Interviewer:** Have you ever experienced personal negativity as a consequence of singing in a choir?

**Coady:** Sometimes **when I sing, and I don’t get some of my notes, I get frustrated and annoyed when my friends can get it**. Also, where I stay, it feels sometimes that **choir can take away my time with my friends there**.

**Interviewer:** What are some of the disadvantages of singing in a choir?

**Coady:** **Sometimes you get teased by other boys for being in the choir**. **I often get called names**. **You get tuned by the rugby players**. Some boys think that choir isn’t as important as sport and **always aim to put us down for being in the choir**. **These boys are mainly my age group**. This usually occurs in age groups. **The boys think it's banter, but they remain my friends**. I never take it too personally.

**Interviewer:** What are some of the benefits of singing in a choir for you?

**Coady:** **You make friendships with other members in choirs from different schools, especially the girls' schools.**

**Interviewer:** What motivates you to continuously sing in a choir?

**Coady:** I thought **I would look cool**. At first, I didn’t have any passion for music. Later, it **becomes a part of my life**. Whenever **I hear music, I would usually do something to it**. **It has created a big passion, and I feel like I want to do this.** ***This made me remain in the choir. If we didn’t go on any tours or perform regularly, I don’t think I wouldn’t have lasted in the choir for long. But it's working towards a performance, and I want to make the most of it and try even harder than I normally would. I want to achieve something cool. There's always a goal in our choir****.* Our **conductor** wants us to achieve at least one golden medal at the World Choir Games or win something. But like the boys, **we want to be world champions**. We **enjoy the sense of competitiveness**; we even want to be better than the St. Mary’s choir and the Drakensberg Boys Choir.