**Semi-structured interview schedule**

**Date: 12/06/22**

**Signature of researcher: JL**

**Name of participant: Pieter (Gr. 12 Student)**

1. Briefly tell me about your choral singing experience. **Which choirs have you sung in** and **how long have you been a member in the Kearsney College Choir**?

Well with choral singing, I only **joined a choir when I was 13 years old**, prior to that, I have never been in a choir, but I have **always had a passion for singing and music**, it has always been in my blood. I was always told by my family that I had a good voice, but I **never enjoyed the attention of singing in public and never pursued the whole choir thing**. When I was **13 years old**, I joined the **Drakensberg Boys Choir** School and I was there from 2017 to 2019, **three years** in total afterward I was offered a **scholarship** at **Kearsney** in **music**. I then joined the Kearsney College Choir in 2020 and this is my final year now in 2022.

1. Explain your initial reasons for wanting to join the Kearsney College Choir.

Since I was young age, I have always been in a boarding establishment. I did not really want to go back home to Pretoria where I’m from and become a day scholar again. **I was more into the boarding school idea**, and **all my friends that have left the Drakensberg Boys Choir** School have come to Kearsney and always said what a nice school it is, musically as well, so **I came to audition for a scholarship here and I was given that scholarship, so I undoubtedly decided to join the choir**. I felt like it was an obligation towards the scholarship to audition and secondly, **I wanted to audition for the choir**. It was a combination of the two so it kind of put me on the path of joining the choir because **I enjoy touring and the aspect of being part of a team and being part of something bigger than myself.**

1. What are some of the highlights (if any) of being a member of the Kearsney College Choir?

The **long rehearsals and the progression of not knowing the music**. The whole process and **journey you go through to get to the result** compared to the beginning is crazy and I really enjoyed that. I enjoy **performing** a lot, it has always been a part of me. I have performed a couple of solos in the choir which **makes me feel quite important**.

1. How does choral singing make you feel? **Explain in detail**.

Choral singing to me, **not a lot of people understand**, but once you have been in a choir, you listen to the sound, the chords, and the whole group of people together singing to create some sound, **it evokes an emotional response in me that you cannot find anywhere else**. **Music for me is a way that I can express myself** and help others express themselves and it is a **very emotional thing for me**. That for me is the **most magical thing about choral singing**.

1. Do you have friends in the choir? If so, how important are these friendships to you?

Plenty. A lot of my friends are in the choir. **A lot of my Drakie friends are in the choir that came here, and we are all still as good mates as we were back then**. B**eing in a boarding establishment, the friendship I have is all I have.** I can't just go home and talk to my mother, but here, it is these **friendships that I consider a brotherhood and it has helped me emotionally and it kept me going**. It made me realise that I can rely on other people.

1. Do the members of the Kearsney College Choir share a unique brotherhood (separate from the rest of the school)? **Elaborate**.

**I would not say that it is separate,** but I would say that **you can relate to more things to people who are not in the choir could relate to such as performing on a stage and the rugby boys would not understand that**. **The emotional response I get is something that you cannot get anywhere else.**

1. Do you think singing in a choir can bring diverse cultures together, and if so how, and if not, why do you think that is?

**I think it can do that because we have people of all racial groups singing one specific cultural song.** It is not fixated on one cultural group. **We sing classical songs and folk songs from all around the world, and I think that it helps us expand our knowledge about other cultures as well as brings us all together**.

1. How do you experience cultural integration (if any) within the choir?

**I do not view it negatively;** I do not have any negative feedback to give back on that. I find that l**earning new words and meanings of songs and different types of songs that cultures would make, enhances my perception of different cultures**.

1. Could you explain what you value most of being a choir member of the Kearsney College Choir? **Elaborate**.

For me, it is not something tangible that I could explain, but **it is more of an emotional connection and attachment to the choir itself**. **Our conductor is one of the best I have ever seen**, and I do not trust anyone else but him when it comes to that. It is not something I could find anywhere else. **That emotional feeling and the emotive response I get,** I am kind of addicted to it and **I am quite adamant about being on time for rehearsals and there for rehearsals.**

1. Have you ever experienced personal negativity because of singing in a choir (Kearsney or other)? **Explain**.

I feel that a lot of songs we sing I can relate to which can be a positive and negative thing because **it could bring back some memories that I would rather forget and sometimes memories that I probably forgot already**, or it could be memories that I did not want to forget. I feel that it could be both a positive and negative thing, but it remains more positive than negative.

1. What are some of the benefits of singing in a choir for you?

For me specifically, **who struggle socially, it is a place where you can go and make friendships through music and not necessarily through speaking or being a social person but rather through singing and being in harmony with people around you**.

1. What are some of the disadvantages of singing in a choir?

At my age, **being in Matric we have a very demanding schedule in terms of academic portfolio tasks**. **The time that we could use to study or do academic work is taken by choir a lot of the time which can be quite frustrating**. It is not something that you are incapable of coping with. It just means that **you have less free time**.

1. What motivates you to continuously participate in choral singing?

Probably the fact that I do not want to let people down. I feel that each person in the choir is of value, and nobody is indispensable. It is like clockwork; each little gear needs to work together to produce the best results and work properly. It is a machine and I feel that if you have people that are dead weight or aren’t as dedicated to everyone else, the parts will fall out and the machine won't function properly. It is that obligation to keep the machine working and not let the people around you down.