**Semi-structured interview schedule**

**Date: 12/06/22**

**Signature of researcher: JL**

**Name of participant: Tony (Gr. 11 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**?

Since I was small. My **father was the music teacher** and so wherever he taught, I went to that school, so actually, I was in the choir that he took **from grade one**. From the schools that he taught at, at **Hilton Primary up in Umhlanga**, **Holy Family College in Glenmore**, and finally at **Highbury** in my grade seven year. After that, I came here to **Kearsney**. I auditioned to come into the Senior Choir, which is this choir, in the middle of the first term. I didn’t really make it through. There is a **Senior Choir from Matric to grade eight**, which is also classified as the International Choir that goes on tours, then you have the **Junior Choir that consists of grade eights and nines**, which allows them to experience singing in a choir which will eventually bring them up into the “Big Choir”. **You start off by auditioning, they check your vocal range and how good your sound is**. If you made it in, then you must l**earn all the songs that they did and choreography**, if you didn’t, and you still want to be in the choir, you stayed in the Junior Choir, and it raises your chance of getting into the Senior Choir.

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

I **grew up in a musical family**. Singing has become a daily part of my life and I **enjoy singing** in a choir because you **make more friends** and singing in hindsight allows you to **express how you feel**. I just really enjoy **being in a choir**.

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

You get **to go overseas,** you **perform in front of lots of people**, even if you are just someone in the choir, people would know your face because of singing in the Kearsney College Choir. I **enjoy bonding with the guys while singing**. You go through the **good times and a lot of bad times**, but **we stick together**.

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

It **makes me happy**. Some of the **music touches me deeper**. A lot of people like Hip Hop or Rap, for me, I am more into instrumental music. You can remove some of the lyrics of the song and listen to the music on its own. When we sing as a choir, even if we do not sing the lyrics and just sing the oe’s and ah’s, it does **sound nice and makes me feel better**. Music **makes me feel touched**.

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

Yes, I do have friends in the choir. They are a **top priority**. **Above them would be the singing, then you get your friends**. **If you are struggling, your friends can assist you with your notes or choreography**, or if they are struggling you could always help them. **To maintain those relationships for me is building more of an intimate relationship with them**. You **become reliable** on those people, and they can rely more on you.

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

I would say it does more than other activities at school. **It is like playing a sport, if you want to move up to a better team in the next year, you can really maintain that brotherhood and understand each other better.** With the choir, since it ranges **from grade eight to Matric, that becomes a five-year relationship, and you can build a lot**.

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 **say it can. An Afrikaans-speaking person who comes from a family that speaks Afrikaans as their home language would learn Xhosa songs or Zulu songs, or for now, we are learning to sing German**. **You broaden your horizons into how people speak** and **how their cultures are with the types of songs they have**, whether it would be classical or a different type.

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

It is quite fascinating for me since I have different types of friends. One is Xhosa, one is Zulu, one is Afrikaans, and so, when they meet a new culture, we must learn that **it is sort of like a challenge that we are taking on for ourselves**.

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

**The sound as a group**. **If we sing together, we get along more**. If we all have a good sound, **everyone tends to be happier and everyone becomes more energetic**. But if we are not singing together, or **singing wrong notes, you can see that agitation and that causes the tension to rise**.

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

Sometimes, but there weren’t any big reasons, **it would probably be like I was singing flat or singing the wrong note**. Other people did not really pick on me since I am a big person, nobody really picks on me.

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

**You broaden your horizons of intercultural exchanges**, so you wouldn’t really react in an inappropriate way if you learn more about another person’s culture. **You wouldn’t have a singular perspective.** That would probably be the main thing. **You also would try and assist wherever you can, for example, when someone pronounces the words wrong, you would always try and help them**.

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

The **biggest one is the rehearsal times**. Now, during the week, **we have Monday evening for an hour, Thursday for an hour, and Friday from 15:00 to 17:00. Now, on Sundays, we are practicing from 09:00 to 17:00 to try and prepare for our tour at the end of June**. So, **the times increase with the more performances we have**. Usually, we might complain a lot, but we still rock up and do it.

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

**My background** mainly. **The musical side of my family goes all the way back to my great-great-grandparents on both sides.** From my dad’s side, his great-grandfather played the guitar and from my mother’s side, her great-grandmother played piano and guitar, and her husband played the banjo. My great-grandmother played the piano and could also play the guitar, and my grandmother now, stays with us, but she plays the guitar, and she can teach guitar. My mother plays the bass guitar and my father the piano. My sister plays the flute and percussion and I play the drumkit. We also have a family band at home, and we play at church every Saturday evening.