**Semi-structured interview schedule**

**Date: 12/06/22**

**Signature of researcher: JL**

**Name of participant: Solomon (Gr. 10 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**?

This is my **first year at the Kearsney College Choir**, but I was previously at the **Drakensberg Boys Choir** for **five years** from 2020 to 2021. The Drakensberg [Boys Choir] came to my school and I **wasn’t really a music person**. They came and auditioned me to join the choir and I really **loved the audition**. They were **testing my pitch** and whether I could sing. Once I entered the school and choir, **I started to grow a real love for classical and choral music**, I felt this unique and much more touching than ordinary music if you do understand the [choral] music. A lot of people do not understand choral, or classical music, but once you understand it is actually very nice. I listen to it [choral music] a lot, I like the Rex Tremendae and Lacrymosa from Mozart’s Requiem and a few Agnus Dei’s.

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

I believe that the K**earsney College Choir had the best choir out of all the boy** schools I wanted to go to. The **overall culture at this school is that they take the choir very seriously compared to other schools**. I’m a **very serious person in terms of culture** and I just wanted to come and sing in the Kearsney College Choir.

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

My highlights would be **to help improve the choir.** Also, the **Figtree Festival** is an annual festival that Kearsney is asked to participate in every single year. I can’t wait [for the **upcoming international tour**], we are going to see and experience so many countries in just a few days, so I am really excited about that. It is also going to be my first time going to these specific countries.

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

**It touches my heart, and it really inspires me**. Whenever I listen to choral music, I almost **feel like I am becoming a better person**. It is so rare to hear choral music nowadays and whenever you find and **hear that song that touches your heart, it becomes so inspirational**.

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

I have plenty of friends in the choir. It [the friendships] are extremely important to me. **Some of the people in the choir I have grown up** with and have become **more musically inclined with them**, we **have gone through so much together, musically**. **It has just been nice growing up with them and learning the same things while being in the choir**.

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

**I believe so**. Everyone in the school does not believe in choir that much, but then **in this choir, we know our words, the brotherhood, and the talents we share on the stage are unique.**

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 believe choral singing does bring diverse cultures together**. Firstly, **our repertoire is music that comes from all over the world, it is diverse, and already that brings more people into the choir**. For example, we would be singing Spanish songs, Latin songs, and all types of songs, it just really shows so much diversity in terms of the people and the repertoire in the choir.

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

**It shows that the world is becoming more one**. This [**the Kearsney College Choir] has been a really nice experience getting to know more about other cultures in the choir** and I believe that it has been a good thing. **The choir has become more culturally integrated.**

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

I have been performing in choirs for a long time, I know **the feeling of the result**. **At the end of performances and that feeling you get once the crowd cheers for you, that feeling is just something that always gets me**. Every time there is a choir rehearsal, I know that in the end, **it is all going to be worth it because of performing**. If you have more choir rehearsals, the result will always be better, and the crowd will also be better which is quite nice.

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

**Not anything serious**. It is only **minor things such as some boys that do not really think that choir is for people like boys**. Also, the time does take away some academic time, but I feel that I really enjoy choir, so it does not really bother me that much.

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

Firstly, if **you have a fun rehearsal doing choreography is quite nice**. Also, **when we get a new piece, I enjoy it a lot**, like the one we are currently doing. **Performing in front of big crowds and the adrenaline of performing**, in general, is quite nice. Usually, actual performances get me. **I tend to become extremely excited whenever I know that I will be performing.**

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

**It does take up some of your school time**. Otherwise, nothing really.

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

**Performances**. I just really **love performing with a choir**. What is nice about being in a choir is that you **get to meet so many people**. Those people come from very interesting backgrounds and are quite interesting to know about. Outside of choir, when we are on tour and I am hosted by someone else, it is quite **nice meeting various people and they are usually people that you do not surround yourself with normally**, and then **sharing the stage with them**, getting to know them outside of choir is quite nice.