**Semi-structured interview schedule**

**Date: 12/06/22**

**Signature of researcher: JL**

**Name of participant: Roberto (Gr. 8 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**?

I'm from Johannesburg and I went to **St. Stithians College**, and I was in the **boys’ prep** so then I started in the choir for the **junior prep choir**, so it was very small because I always just **loved the idea of being in a choir**. I then started singing in the boys’ prep choir as well and then I got offered a **scholarship at Kearsney** and then I moved down. This year, I joined the **Kearsney College Choir and I have been in it since January, around about six months**.

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

I **have always been in choir**, so when I came into the school, I always wanted to be part of the choir. **Kearsney Choir is also quite famous**, and very good it seemed. I just wanted to be a part of that as well. I **wanted to be a part of a strong choir and I have been enjoying the teamwork and singing together with other people and making music was another attraction for me**.

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

I have only been in it for a while now, and we are preparing to go to Austria, and I think my **first practice there stood out for me**. When I came in everybody was **ready and they were all like disciplined.** When **we started singing, we were all focused and hard-working**. That **perseverance** really stood out for me, which I haven't seen in other choirs that I have been in and that’s when I realized that this is a proper choir.

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

**I value them**. We have choir practice three days a week. I **see these guys a lot,** I mean now, we're having a whole Sunday here at rehearsal. I think it's important to have these friendships. Just inside the choir and **if you build a relationship with each other, I think you want to work harder because you start to work for each other in the choir**.

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

**In Kearsney the actual school, matrics can be tough on you**, **but whereas in the choir, everybody is sort of the same**. There aren’t as many rules, and then **I start to become more relaxed with a person. I would rather speak to a matric that is in the choir than speak to the head boy.** I would much rather speak to the head of the choir than the head boy of the school. **They seem more relaxed and seem more** understanding and as I have mentioned, **we spend four hours each week with each other**, so **you start to bond and build a relationship with them.**

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 does.** We've got so many different cultures in our own choir, and I think **we do so many different songs, we are doing a German song, a Zulu song, all sorts of different cultural songs, and learning about the culture like the Zulu cultural beliefs and then we're also working on an Estonian song. I'm getting more educated on culture** through the choir now. Learning experiences through singing, like Johnny Clegg, **singing really helps us learn about other people's cultures and the people that are in the choir**, we've got so many people from different cultures, and I get to meet them. I think through the choir and **the bond that you make with them, you have an opportunity to learn about their culture as well.**

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

It's hard to understand another person’s culture when they just tell you about it. If you think about it, it **becomes lyrical or poetry**. I think you understand it better if you sing it all the time if you're learning the words and if you learn how to pronounce it.

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

**We have a very good bond with each other**. **You have a relationship with others, and I come here to see my friends and to see the head of the choir because I also appreciate the drive in this choir to achieve**. With other choirs I have been in, it hasn't been like that, we were just going to choir on a random Tuesday just to sing. I think in the Kearsney choir, **everybody is working hard and working to achieve something, pulling their weight trying to win, working towards winning, and while we are doing it, we also have fun, like enjoying it as well and spending time with our friends.** **I think that is what brings me to the choir, to achieve, work hard, and be around friends.**

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

I think at Kearsney, **the choir is as respected as the first team rugby side**. **Everything is quite equal and a well-balanced school**. There isn't that much negativity, because you **always look forward to it and you're not being bullied for being in the choir**. **You are respected for being in the choir** which is different from other schools that I've seen and been in.

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

Firstly, I would say that the Kearsney **choir has increased my musical ability**, **I must listen to other people’s notes and how they are singing**, and to tempo and all of that. **Choir benefits you culturally, where you meet all sorts of different people**. You learn different things from others, for example, we have a drummer, I personally cannot drum that well, but now **I'm learning from him how to get the tempo correct and how to do all sorts of things**. We have soloists, **you can see how to sing nicely, loudly, and perfectly**. I think you can learn. **You build a relationship among your peers and form a close bond with them.** You can't do that with a rugby team where you are only 15 guys, and we've got 60 guys in the choir and I got a bond with most of them, if not all of them.

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

I think just the **choir takes time**. As a school kid in high school, you got a lot of things to do, **I'm playing two sports and I also have my academics** and trying to keep that. You have a lot of work to do, and if you are musical, culturally **you must practice your instruments**. **This choir does take up quite a bit of time, but I think in the end it’s worth it**.

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

To **use your voice as an instrument is incredible and singing in a group is even better**. **Singing with others and singing with friends that you know and just working together and putting all those hours in and then coming into the performance and showing everybody all the hard work that you've done**, it becomes worth it to **put in that effort**. I like all types of music, and I listen to all sorts of different genres and choral music and the music we have been doing, **I enjoy hearing it in different voice groups and singing different parts**. whereas in other music you just hear the soloist singing all time. To **harmonize is fun and to listen to that altogether**.