**Semi-structured interview schedule**

**Date: 12/06/22**

**Signature of researcher: JL**

**Name of participant: Ntaka (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**?

It was probably around **grade four or three**, I was at **Bryanston Primary in Johannesburg**. I started there and then I **moved to Durban** in **grade six**, 2018, and from there I went to **Highbury** and joined the choir ever since I got there. I sang there up to grade seven. In **grade eight I started at Kearsney College**, and this is now my t**hird year in the choir.**

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

**My love for singing and music and the idea of the opportunity that I got to be able to tour with the Kearsney College Choir, for me, is touring and doing what I love.**

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

There are so many. To name a few, it would be the **freedom that is in the choir.** From grade eight, being a junior, the choir was not how I expected it to be. **It is that freedom when I get to the choir and my peers, I get to relate to them**. We share so much in common, and music is very important to me. **Our choir director, he’s very reliable and helpful. He shows empathy.**

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

I **cannot really put it in words**, but it **makes me feel that I am not on this earth**, like I am out of the planet, and I am on a whole new platform. It just makes me like I am elsewhere where there is nobody else, it is just these people and me making great music.

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

Yes, I do have friends**. They are very important to me**; they mean a lot to me in fact. My **closest friends are people in the choir** because **I spend so much time with them and the fact that we can share choir, and the love of music in common**. That brings a connection that is not there with people we do not share music with.

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

Yes. I do not know if it is just me but **from what I see you have all your differences from somebody, there are people whom I do not like in the choir and we don’t see eye to eye, but once the music is involved, everything just connects**. It is so relevant, and it **becomes easier to communicate with that person.**

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?

Yes, I do think that **choir singing does bring people together**. In the Kearsney College Choir, for example, **we do sing in English, Zulu, and Xhosa.** **We sing in languages from all over, and for me, coming from a personal experience, I do not think that I would have stayed in the choir for as long if we did English only**. When I came here in 2019 as a grade seven student for an open weekend, I watched the choir for the first time and that is where I was like: that is where I want to be. **The diversity of the cultures, they gave us both choral music, and classical music, they gave us South African, deep Johnny Clegg South African music, and that brings people together**. The languages you sing bring people together.

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

I **find it something I enjoy**. **In our choir, there aren’t any stereotypes as vivid as in the school**. From the side, **people would normally tell you that can't dance, yet a member of our current gumboot squad is white, I think that for me, breaks down walls in terms of culture and stereotypes**. **Having Indian race in the choir, seeing them enjoy and connect with those people which I do not really see during school, that for me helps in terms of integration**.

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

There are two main things. One would be **the conductor**, **I value him a lot in terms of the choir’s dynamics and how we worked, even the quality of the music**. Since he has come to the school and from the choir’s side, **it is the passion that we have, once we make crazy music we laugh**.

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

**It is the fulfillment that I get from singing in a choir**. The sound becomes food for my ears and that would be the advantage of singing in a choir. **The respect that I get from being in the choir, especially the Kearsney College Choir, the name itself speaks a lot.**

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

Must be time. **Choir takes up so much time** which is usually **academic time and the academics do get affected**. There was a point last year when we did not do choir because of lockdown and Covid, but all of us were still at school and that is where my marks spiked and when I did well academically because we did not have that rehearsal time and so I studied in that time. **I did well in my academics, but then the rehearsals came back, and then my marks started to decline again.** Time would be a big disadvantage for me and the sacrifices I must make to be in the choir. **But that is something I do not regret**.

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

It is the **passion that I have for this choir and for music** in general. Even during the times when everything is tough and difficult and there is no other way of finding out a different choir that I can participate in. This is the only choir for me. T**he drive and the passion steer me towards those types of thoughts**.