

**South African unit standards for sight-singing,  
realised in a multiple-media study package**

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## Summary

This research concerns the design of a multiple-media study package for sight-singing and how national standards for sight-singing can be realised by using this study package. Sight-singing is a skill which can be of great value for singers, choristers and other musicians. Unfortunately this skill has been sadly neglected in South African schools. The result is that a great percentage of society (and in particular, choristers) is not able to read music and then sing it.

The researcher is responsible for sight-singing tuition at the Drakensberg Boys' Choir School, which is the only choir school in South Africa. The ages of new choristers vary from 9 to 13 years and there is a considerable variation in their music backgrounds. It is therefore essential that every learner can work at his own pace to master sight-singing. The author did research on this subject to compile a sight-singing programme which will enable learners to reach a high standard of sight-singing while progressing at their own pace.

By making a study of relevant literature, the author gathered information on sight-singing, reading, communication, educational media as well as Outcomes-Based Education and instructional design. The author formulated criteria for a sight-singing programme and for the use of educational media in such a programme. These criteria are used to evaluate seven different sight-singing programmes. The evaluation indicated to the researcher how other authors approached the subject. He identified the strong and weak points of every programme.

The researcher designed a multiple-media study package for sight-singing according to Dick and Carey's systems approach model for designing instruction (1996). The study package consists of a workbook, a testbook and two audio CDs. The author did action research by using the study package to teach sight-singing to the new choristers at the Drakensberg Boys' Choir School. Various problems in the study package became clear while using it for teaching. The study package was amended a number of times to eliminate the shortcomings.

This research indicates that sight-singing is not only possible when a competent teacher is present. Students can learn sight-singing independently by using a multiple-media programme.

## Opsomming

Hierdie navorsing handel oor die ontwerp van 'n meervoudige-media studiepakkette vir bladsang. Die probleem wat behandel is, was om vas te stel hoe nasionale standaarde vir bladsangonderrig bereik kan word deur 'n meervoudige-media onderrigprogram.

Bladsang is 'n vaardigheid wat van groot waarde kan wees vir sangers, koorlede en ander musici. In die meerderheid van Suid-Afrikaanse skole het hierdie vaardigheid ongelukkig min aandag geniet tot op hede. Die gevolg is dat 'n groot persentasie van die bevolking, en in besonder koorsangers, nie in staat is om musiek te lees en dit dan te sing nie.

Die navorser is verantwoordelik vir bladsangonderrig by die Drakensberg Seunskool, die enigste koorskool in Suid-Afrika. Die ouderdom van nuwe aankomelinge by die skool wissel van 9 tot 13 jaar en hulle musiekagtergrond verskil aansienlik. Dit is dus noodsaaklik dat elke leerder teen sy eie tempo kan werk om bladsang te bemeester. Ten einde 'n bladsangprogram daar te stel wat leerders in staat stel om die nodige standaard in bladsang te bereik en om teen hulle eie tempo te werk, het die outeur navorsing oor die onderwerp gedoen.

Deur 'n studie van relevante literatuur het die outeur inligting ingewin rakende bladsang, lees, kommunikasie, onderrigmedia asook Uitkomsgebaseerde Onderwys en die ontwerp van studiepakkette. Die outeur het kriteria geformuleer vir die samestelling van 'n bladsangprogram en vir die benutting van onderrigmedia in so 'n program. Hierdie kriteria is gebruik om sewe verskillende bladsangprogramme te evalueer. Deur hierdie evaluering kon die navorser sien hoe ander outeurs die onderwerp benader het. Hy het die sterk en swak punte van elke program aangetoon. Die evaluering van hierdie programme het vir die outeur waardevolle insig gegee in die samestelling van so 'n program.

Die navorser het 'n meervoudige-media studiepakkette vir bladsang ontwerp volgens die sisteembenadering van Dick en Carey (1996). Hierdie pakket bestaan uit 'n werkboek, 'n toetsboek en twee oudio CD's. Hy het aksienavorsing onderneem deur die pakket te gebruik om nuwelinge by die Drakensberg Seunskool in bladsang te onderrig. Deur die praktiese implementering van die program het sekere tekortkominge na vore gekom. Die studiepakkette is verskeie kere gewysig om gebreke te probeer elimineer.

Hierdie navorsing toon aan dat bladsangonderrig nie slegs moontlik is onder leiding van 'n bekwame onderwyser nie, maar dat leerders selfstandig kan leer deur gebruik te maak van meervoudige media.

**Sleutelwoorde**

Bladsang, meervoudige-media, studiepakket, Suid-Afrika, onderwysstandaarde, Drakensberg Seunskoor, onafhanklike leer, teoretiese model, onderwysmedia.

**Key words**

Sight-singing, multiple-media, study package, South Africa, unit standards, Drakensberg Boys' Choir, independent learning, theoretical model, educational media.

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