Forming a Children’s Choir
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Object: To engage the young people in the life of the church and to raise up the future leaders and singers of the church.

1. Children love to sing.
2. Unison is just fine.
   a. If you have a couple of more experienced singers you may be able to go to 2-part singing.
3. Begin simply, but with specific goals and regular rehearsals.
   a. Know in advance when you will have the children sing. Even if it is several months in the future. It will give the children a goal.
   b. Antiphon verses, communion, antiphonally with the main adult choir, festal troparia or after church in the parish hall for lunch
4. Expect regular attendance.
   a. Have the children and the parents make a specific commitment.
   b. Even if it is 30 minutes on Sunday morning after coffee hour.
   c. If you fill the time, you will usually get them back.
   d. Make rehearsals fun.
5. Include singing on solfegge (do, re, mi) and basic music theory. Children can learn this system quickly and will learn music more quickly.
   a. See the sample exercises and songs.
   b. It is fine for you to spoon-feed this at first but over time students will learn quickly.
   c. This will also help with intonation. Use a keyboard or some other instrument to help teach. (If singing in unison, play if possible full chordal structures.)
6. Include basic singing technique – breathing, uniform vowel sounds, pure, clear, and free tone.
7. Include boys with changing voices.
   a. Keep them singing in their young boy voice.
   b. Create lower alto parts for them (sometimes a bass part up the octave with minor changes works great.)
8. Decide about what age children you want. Do you want them to be able to read first?
9. Have fun. If you have fun the children are more likely to have fun and learn to love singing. Sing some fun songs.
Rejoice, Virgin Theotokos

Music Example #2

Voskresenski Monastery, Moscow
English setting: Walter G. Obleschuk

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**Solfegge Songs #1**

**Row, row, row your boat**
Do do do re mi  
Mi re mi fa sol,  
Do do do, sol sol sol mi mi do do do  
Sol fa mi re do

**Are You Sleeping**
Do re mi do, Do re mi do,  
Mi fa sol, Mi fa sol,  
Sol la sol fa mi do, Sol la sol fa mi do,  
Do sol do, Do sol do.

**America (My Country ‘tis of Thee)**
Do do re ti do re  
Mi mi fa mi re do re do ti do,  
Sol sol sol sol fa mi, fa fa fa fa mi re  
Mi fa mi re do mi fa sol  
La fa mi re do

**Allouette**
Do re mi mi re do re mi do sol,  
Do re mi mi re do re mi do.

**Bingo**
Sol do do sol sol la la sol,  
Sol do do re re mi do,  
Mi mi fa fa fa,  
Re re mi mi mi,  
do do re re  
do ti sol la ti do do.

**Erie Canal**
Mi la la do do do re  
Mi mi mi ti do la ti la  
Mi mi la la do do do re  
Mi mi mi ti do la ti la

**When Johnny Comes Marching Home**
Mi mi la la ti do ti do la sol mi sol, Mi mi la la ti do ti do re mi do mi,  
Do re mi mi re do re re ti do do do ti la ti ti do re mi re do ti mi la la so la.

**Heigh Ho**
La sol la la mi, La la ti do do do ti, Mi re mi re mi re mi re do ti, La sol la la mi.