

CHOIR GAME IDEAS: from

<http://choralnet.org/resources/viewResource.phtml?id=1645&lang=en&category=2>

Using a candy like "Starburst," assign each color with a different "fact." For example, selecting a pink Starburst means you share your most memorable musical experience. Without revealing the assignment, pass out one Starburst to each student, asking them not to eat it yet...Let them know what each color means, and have each student share their name, their fact and then eat their candy!

Each member adds one question of unique trivia about themselves to a list. You then, compile the list and the members, including yourself, must go to each other to find out what trivia belongs to who.

Example:

1. I have a pet named Bingo.
 2. I have lived on every U.S. Border.
- Etc. Etc. Etc.
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I have a game (I've forgotten now where I discovered it) that I use with all ages. I have some small cards with titles of familiar songs, like Old MacDonald, Joy to the World, My Country 'tis of Thee, etc. printed on them. Everyone draws a card from a stack keeping their title secret. When the signal is given everyone begins singing their song, the object of the game is to find other people in the room singing the same song, and eventually sing it all the way through once, together. This puts the entire group in random smaller groups. From there we might play one or more times, but eventually move on to another activity using these random groupings. It's a good mixer. Just be careful to caution them to sing properly, not shout the song.

One of the icebreakers we have used in our adult choir is to pick one of the singers as "key", then tell everyone to line up in birthday order (month/day only) around the room. They have to talk to each other to find out where they "belong" in line, and it's always a surprise to find how many people have the same birthday as someone else in the choir!

I just took an Intro to Kodaly workshop and was reminded of many of the circle singing games I used to do when I taught elementary music years ago.....so, I got brave and did one with my high school choir last week, "The Jolly Miller", a double circle game where everyone locks arms back to back when the song ends. The "miller" has been walking around the outside and tries to find his/her place, thus one person gets left out and becomes the new miller. Granted, most of my kids knew each other fairly well from years past, although the sophomores are new this year....BUT the kids loved it, had a great time, and want to play it again. I plan to use similar games, especially at times when we are stressed out in rehearsal.

#2) Fun interviews

Each person chooses someone they don't know well to "interview." It consists of three questions (other than name and section).

- 1) Favorite Food
- 2) Favorite singer
- 3) If stranded on a desert Island, what three things (not people) would you bring with you and why.

As time permits at the beginning of each half of rehearsal throughout the retreat, or fall sessions, three or four people introduce the person they interviewed and read the things about them. (This is successful, because the interviewer doesn't have to say anything about him/herself, and the "interview-ee" just has to stand and NOT have to talk about themselves either. Sometimes they can be quite funny and fun!)

We play the traditional "name game" every fall.

Student: "Hi, I'm Cathy."

Everyone: "Hi, Cathy."

Student: "And I like carrots".

Next student: "Hi, I'm Gabe."

Everyone: "Hi, Gabe."

Gabe: "And I like girls. And this is Cathy, and she likes carrots."

Etc. It's cumulative. We usually introduce a row or section each day the first week of school and give prizes to anyone who can name everyone (and their "like") at the end of the week (in large choirs).

Buy a very large bag of M & Ms and enough small sized Dixie cups to provide a cup for each person involved. Fill the cups with random numbers of M & Ms, usually anywhere from 3 to 8-9, and place them on a table. Invite everyone to pick up one cup, but to refrain from eating the M & Ms for just a moment.

When everyone has a cup, ask them to count the number of M & Ms in their cup--after they have counted, tell them that they must tell the group one thing about themselves that no one knows for each M & M in their cup.

It's great fun, and the greedier people (and chocaholics) end up having to tell the most.

I have a few ideas. My family is very devoted to Jeopardy and my brother often creates a Jeopardy game using a particular theme. You could create one with musical categories such as Composers, Theory, Music the Choir Has Performed this Year, Pop Music, etc. In fact, as I write this, I'm thinking that I may do this same thing for my end-of-the-year choir party. Thanks. You've helped me.