Introduction to Independent Musicianship –
A Unit for 6th Grade Chorus

*Independent Musicianship* should be one of the chief goals of any ensemble director at the middle or high school level. According to a 2009 study conducted by *Chorus America*, 32.5 million adults in the United States sing in a community, church, or school chorus. Because such a significant portion of our population is continuing to study choral music beyond their school-age studies, it is essential that we equip young musicians with a musical skill set that can be utilized into adulthood.

This unit will serve as the foundation for the dozens of musical concepts that will be explored during the middle school choral experience. It will provide students with the “why” behind many important music skill-building activities. Students will explore what it means to be independent and explore that concept through the lens of musicianship. They will come to an understanding of why independent musicianship is important to a young choral musician. They will also create a list of skills and strategies that will lead to independent musicianship. Students will use both concert performance repertoire and other musical examples to reinforce these ideas and begin their journey toward independent musicianship.

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