

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to study the development of Malaysian university choirs. This study focused specifically on the three elements of university choir experiences, problems and challenges faced by university choir members and conductors, and initiatives undertaken by choir members and conductors to improve the quality of choir singing. Although the number of university choirs has multiplied over the past twenty years due to the increased tertiary music programmes being offered in Malaysia, very few studies have been conducted from the perspective of choir members and choral conductors. In seeking greater understanding in this area, this study was conducted via quantitative and qualitative methods. A questionnaire was distributed to choir members and interview sessions were conducted with three choral conductors from selected universities to gain insight into their experiences with the choirs, to discuss the challenges they faced, and to seek strategies in improving the overall quality of the choir. Result of the study show that all choir members and choral conductors consider choral activities to be important. They also share their ideas and suggestions on means to improve the quality of choirs singing in Malaysian universities. The findings indicate financial constraint to be the biggest challenge faced by both the choir groups as well as the choral conductors. Besides, greater opportunities to get involved in performances and competitions especially outside Malaysia was an essential contributor to ensure a better standard of the choir as a whole. It was evident that a lot of talents are supposed to be seen and assisted as they are also contributing to the good reputation of the university as well as the country. Financial problem should not be an obstacle to the development of choir in Malaysia. Therefore, this study provides a better understanding of the development of university choirs in Malaysia by looking at the choir members' and

choral conductors' experiences, identifying challenges, and formulate possible strategies in order to raise the overall standard of university choirs in Malaysia.

Keywords: Choral, choir, choir members, choir conductor, Malaysian university choir

Perkembangan Koir universiti di Malaysia: Amalan Koir Semasa dari Perspektif Ahli dan Konduktor Koir

ABSTRAK

Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji perkembangan koir di universiti dalam Malaysia. Kajian ini memberi tumpuan kepada tiga elemen- a) pengalaman koir di universiti; b) masalah dan cabaran yang dihadapi oleh ahli dan konduktor koir; dan c) inisiatif yang dilakukan untuk meningkatkan kualiti sesebuah kumpulan koir. Walaupun bilangan kumpulan koir di universiti telah meningkat seiring dengan peningkatan program muzik yang ditawarkan di universiti, sangat sedikit kajian telah dilakukan dari perspektif ahli koir dan konduktor terutamanya di Malaysia. Untuk mendapatkan kefahaman yang lebih jelas, kajian ini dijalankan melalui kaedah kuantitatif dan kualitatif. Soal selidik diedarkan kepada ahli koir manakala sesi temuramah dijalankan bersama tiga konduktor koir dari tiga universiti terpilih untuk mendapatkan maklumat berkaitan pengalaman, cabaran dan inisiatif mereka dalam meningkatkan mutu koir di universiti. Berdasarkan dapatan kajian, semua ahli koir dan konduktor koir mengakui pentingnya kegiatan koir. Selain itu, konduktor juga berkongsi idea dan cadangan mereka dalam usaha memartabatkan koir di Malaysia. Kekangan kewangan merupakan cabaran paling utama yang dihadapi oleh kumpulan koir. Peluang untuk menyertai persembahan dan pertandingan di luar negara juga adalah penting dan ia berkait rapat dengan faktor kewangan sesebuah kumpulan tersebut. Banyak bakat yang sepatutnya diketengahkan kerana mereka juga menyumbang kepada reputasi baik sesebuah universiti dan negara. Masalah kewangan tidak seharusnya menjadi halangan kepada pembangunan koir di universiti khususnya, dan di Malaysia amnya.

Kata kunci: *Paduan suara, koir, ahli koir, konduktor koir, koir universiti Malaysia*