

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**  
**FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE MEMBERS TO PERSISTENTLY**  
**PARTICIPATE IN CHOIR**

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## Abstract

This study examine external and internal factors and the relationship of factors that influence choir members' intention to continue choir participation, after joining the choir group and lesson. The six factors which are being investigated are: parental musicianship and support of music, previous musical experience, self-concept in music, value of music, academic integration, and social integration. The path-analytical model and original version of Choir Participation Survey II replicated from Sichivitsa (2007) is used for the purpose of this study. A sample number of 113 choir subjects have responded, (N=113; 54 male and 59 female). The respondents of this research were the adult participants from the choir academies and groups in Malaysia. The selected choir groups were from six different groups which are: Malaysian National Choir (MNC), Suara HASiL Choir (SHC), Symphony JPPH Choir (SJPPHC), Suara Warisan Choir (KOSWA), The Vocalist Choir (TVC) and Young Choral Academy (YCA). The results showed that: Choir members who reported higher levels of parental musicianship and support of music ( $\beta = .57, p < .01$ ) had better self-concepts in music. Choir members who had better self-concepts in music ( $\beta = .59, p < .01$ ) were more satisfied with the academic aspects of the choral class. Choir members who had better self-concepts in music ( $\beta = .62, p < .01$ ) and were more satisfied with the academic aspects of the choral class ( $\beta = .80, p < .01$ ) were also more satisfied with the social aspects of the class. Choir members who felt more satisfied with the academic ( $\beta = .72, p < .01$ ) and social ( $\beta = .73, p < .01$ ) aspects of the choral class also valued music more. Choir members who valued music more ( $\beta = .52, p < .01$ ) had higher intentions to continue music participation in the future.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Choir singing continues to be a popular form of participation in the performing arts including for adults. The fact that human being is born with a voice that can produce sound naturally and sing makes music teachable to anybody. Choir is different from orchestra in many aspects. In terms of music production, orchestra needs instruments that can be played, whereas participating in a choir only requires a voice that can sing and the willingness to learn to sing. Unlike instruments which require the musicians to practise and master their respective instrument before they are able to play with others, the choir students can learn singing together in the class. This gives advantage to some people especially adults to gain experience in learning music through choir. Most people believe that singing is a privilege that you are entitled to at birth (Sloboda, Wise, & Peretz, 2005; Smith, 2006). Nevertheless, everyone should be encouraged to sing because a study by Clift and Hancox (2001) showed that people who sing have the benefits in the aspects of emotion, physical condition, cognitive thinking, and social well-being. Singing is an enjoyable activity. Not only can it be done at no cost, it can also be done practically at any place and at any time. It is also used as a medium of expression to convey one's emotions and opinions, acting as a different form of communication compared to the normal way of speaking (Thurman, 2000).

Studies have identified several benefits of choral singing in various cultures and populations. A research by Nelson (1997) found that the performance in choir was special to his respondents. His study involved only male occupants of a residential facility between the ages of 11 and 17. The respondents agreed that they have a special relationship among the choir members. In addition, they said that their experiences in the choir were profoundly personal, with many wonderful moments that are simply indescribable. Another research was done by Bailey and Davidson (2002). They investigated the choir participation perception among homeless male and found that singing in a group gives positive influence towards their cognitive thinking, emotions, and social well-being. Similar study was performed by Faulkner and Davidson, but the