

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FIVE CHOIR CONDUCTORS IN  
MALAYSIA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study is to describe how choir conductors perceive their musical and non-musical roles and responsibilities, to list necessary knowledge and skill required of the choir conductor and to identify the challenges faced by the choir conductor in leading the choir group. The subject selected for this study are five qualified and experienced choir conductors from UiTM Chamber Choir, two conductors from Young Choral Academy, one from BAVE Chamber Choir and Johor Chamber Choir. The five conductors were selected based on their qualifications in choral conducting certificate and experiences spent more than 5 years in choir conducting and the criteria was to ensure that the data collected from these subjects would be valid and reliable. Data collections were done via semi-structured interviewing sessions with the choir conductor alone by audio recording the interview session. All the data was organized transcribe, analyzed and documented. The results of this study have shown that the choir conductor has a very important roles and responsibilities for the outcome performance of the choir group.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of The Study

Choir conductors have a very important role as leaders and directors of the choir group. According to Sandt (2013), the choir conductor is a musician, a leader, a teacher, an interpreter, a counsellor, and a manager to his or her choir group. Choir conductors should not only understand the music but be able to inspire and teach each of their singers the meaning of music to help them be more musical in their performance. Piper (2008) stated that “a choir especially an amateur choir must first learn the notes and rhythms before being fully capable of bringing a piece of music to life and in the early stages, giving strict beat patterns by a conductor may be more appropriate” (p.97).

Therefore, the choir conductor is not only conducting the choir members but also providing the guidance that will turn the notes into music since the choir members will be able to process the meaning of the conductor’s request and managing, organizing the whole group issues and organization. Other than that, it is important for the choir conductor to explain to the choir members the singing techniques before starting the rehearsal.

Phillips (2004) explained that choir conductors must have a strong understanding of the voice as an instrument because “many fine sounding choruses have been helped by choir conductors for whom voice was the major instrument” (p. 222). In understanding the voice instrument choir conductors can tell their choir members how the voice works and how important it is for all members to know and understand their voice.