

Public Abstract  
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PhD  
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Vocal Agility in the Male Changing Voice  
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This study was designed to investigate agility in adolescent changing voice males. Participants ( $N = 58$ ), 11.5 to 15.9 years old.

Participants were assigned to one of five stages according to Cooksey's range stages, and to one of two Cooper cambiata/baritone categories. Participants sang a stepwise song pattern at increasing tempi, with and without lyrics, and were adjudicated.

Results were that (a) mean agility scores increased from Cooksey stage one through stage five, (b) scores were higher with lyrics than without lyrics, (c) there were differences related to tempo, and (d) there was a positive relationship between agility scores and choral experience.

Summary:

1. Boys in later stages of voice change were judged to be increasingly more agile than in earlier stages, on average.
2. Differences between cambiata and baritone were statistically significant for Cooper's range categories, but not for Cooksey's five stages.
3. Agility was more accurate with lyrics, than when "ahhh" was used.
4. Agility decreased as tempo increased.
5. Agility correlated positively choral experience.

Implications for music educators include:

1. Boys in the earlier midvoice Cooksey voice range may have more difficulty with fast melismas than boys in later stages of change.
2. Songs using lyrics may be easier for changing voice boys to sing accurately, as compared to melismatic songs or passages using a single vowel.
3. As tempo increases, changing voice students may have more difficulty with agility.
4. Choral repertoire with melismas may be more accessible as changing voice boys' choral experience increases.