

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL BULLETIN
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Florida International University
University Graduate School

Master's Thesis Defense

Abstract

The Effect of Circle of Sound Voice Education on the Singing Development of Second Grade Students

by

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The purpose of this study was to determine whether intervention of Circle of Sound core practice exercises, specifically designed by Rao and Perison in the Circle of Sound Voice Education (CSVE), affects the development of singing voice in children. The study specifically examined second grade students who received Circle of Sound core practice exercises as an addition to their instruction experienced greater gains in singing voice development than students who did not receive this instruction. Singing anxiety was also observed and reviewed with a pre and post test survey. Participants (n=82) came from six intact second grade classes from a suburban school in Florida. Three classes served as the experimental group, and three classes served as the control group. For 12 weeks, all students received instruction from a music specialist for 60 minutes. All students completed the Rutkowski's *Singing Voice Development Measure* (SVDM) as a pre and post measurement. The experimental group received 12 weeks of CSVE instruction for the first 15 minutes of each music class while the control group did not. Three qualified independent raters scored SVDM performances, and inter-judge reliabilities was high ($r = .972$). A dependent samples t-test was performed on gain scores to determine if CSVE had an effect on the singing voice development of second graders. A significant difference at the $p < .05$ level was found according to treatment. No significant difference was found in singing anxiety.

Date: November 10, 2009

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: University Park, WPAC Recital Hall

Department: School of Music

Major Professor: Dr. Kathleen Kerstetter