

Need Analysis of Aesthetic Concept in Virtual Work Performance of Virtual Choir “Indonesia Menyanyi”: Harmony in Musical Diversity

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Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly transformed the way art is practiced, particularly in the realm of choral performances, which typically require physical presence to be performed in front of the Indonesian audience for the purpose of providing encouragement during the pandemic. As a result, face-to-face performances have transitioned to a virtual format, presenting new challenges in achieving aesthetic and musical harmony. This study aims to focus on the choir “Indonesia Menyanyi”, a multicultural virtual choir project that has been successful in harmonizing aesthetic concepts. The research methodology used in this study is a qualitative approach that combines video analysis, in-depth interviews, and literature reviews. Additionally, the study incorporates the values of Pancasila as an ethical and aesthetic framework to enhance harmony in cultural diversity, emphasizing the importance of cultural context and national values in achieving aesthetic harmony in virtual choirs. The findings of this study provide critical insights for the development of virtual choir practices during the pandemic that integrate Pancasila values and support inclusive aesthetic harmony.

Keywords: Choir, Indonesian Menyanyi, Virtual, Multicultural, Aesthetic, Inclusive.

INTRODUCTION

The sudden emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic prompted educational institutions all around the globe to embrace online learning, a transformation that holds immense significance in the context of music education. In music education, approximately half of the curriculum is practice-based, and students previously relied heavily on face-to-face interactions and direct access to musical instruments. As a result, teachers and students are required to adapt to new realities and overcome various technical and logistical challenges that they have never encountered before (Utomo, 2022).

In line with Lestari's (2009) perspective, art, particularly fine art, represents a tangible manifestation of human creativity that encompasses the creative process, emotions, and thoughts. Artistic works hold significant value and represent the cultural and civilizational heritage of humanity. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about a substantial transformation in the music industry, compelling traditional choirs to shift to virtual formats as an innovative solution to surmount physical interaction restrictions. According to Lestari (2000), Indonesia faces major challenges in terms of modernization, making it imperative for society to possess the necessary capabilities to address these challenges effectively. The Virtual Choir “Indonesia Menyanyi” initiative, which brings singers from different geographical locations together for collective performances without the need for physical gatherings, epitomizes this effort.

Utomo (2019) underscores the importance of providing students with space to explore and express their creativity in singing, which not only enhances their vocal abilities but also offers a rich aesthetic experience. While this solution provides flexibility and creativity, it also presents significant challenges in achieving aesthetic and musical harmony, given the cultural and musical diversity of the participants. Art is a complex and subjective matter, as it involves personal preferences and interpretations. Each person establishes their own criteria and criteria for creating or judging art. Despite this, it can be said that art is a process of selecting a medium and a set of guidelines for using that medium, and a set of values that determine the most effective way to convey ideas, beliefs, sensations, or emotions through that medium. It requires a unique combination of creativity, skill, and technique to produce a work of art that resonates with the audience (Batubara, 2021).

This diversity emphasizes the lack of knowledge in the literature regarding effective data collection and analysis for integrating and synchronizing musical and aesthetic elements. Previous studies, such as Waldron & Veblen's (2018) examination of digital technology in choirs and Davies' (2012) analysis of melody and harmony, have provided a theoretical foundation but have not specifically addressed the data and methodological requirements in the context of choral aesthetics in Indonesia.

Therefore, this study aims to develop a robust and adaptable data collection methodology that can support in-depth analysis of aesthetic concepts in the Virtual Choir "Indonesia Menyanyi". Using a qualitative approach, including in-depth interviews, video content analysis, and audience surveys, this research seeks to formulate and test effective strategies that address the challenges of aesthetic harmony among singers from diverse musical backgrounds. The study aims to answer the critical question: How can the necessary data for analyzing aesthetic concepts be collected effectively? And what are the main challenges in creating aesthetic harmony in virtual choirs?

The expected outcomes of this study will provide valuable practical guidance for Virtual Choir organizers and participants worldwide in addressing and overcoming aesthetic and technical challenges. Additionally, it is hoped that this research will enhance the standards of virtual choral production globally and provide new insights that support the development of more inclusive and innovative choral practices, especially in situations where social interaction is limited.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research employed an exploratory qualitative design aimed at enhancing comprehension of the aesthetic harmony in the Virtual Choir "Indonesia Menyanyi". The primary objective was to create and validate a novel and efficient data collection and analysis methodology, specifically tailored to the unique context of virtual choirs. This exploratory approach enabled researchers to adaptably modify data collection and analysis procedures to identify intricate and diverse aesthetic elements among various individuals and groups, thereby allowing for a more in-depth examination of the studied phenomenon. The research procedure was executed sequentially, involving stages of data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and data verification or conclusion drawing (Creswell & Creswell, 2017; Andayani, et al., 2023).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The subjects of this study are singers and Virtual Choir managers who actively participate in the "Indonesia Menyanyi" project. These individuals come from a range of ethnic and musical backgrounds, showcasing the cultural diversity of Indonesia. This diversity allows for the Choir "Indonesia Menyanyi" to be classified as multicultural, as it represents the integration and

appreciation of various cultures, customs, and musical styles. This is demonstrated through the choir's performance of musical works from different countries and the blending of elements from various traditions. By adopting a multicultural approach through harmonious musical arrangements that embody Pancasila and aesthetic values, the choir is able to promote unity and appreciation for cultural differences.

In their research, the researchers conducted observations through several methods, including: 1) analyzing video and audio recordings of the Choir "Indonesia Menyanyi". This was achieved by collecting virtual choir practice sessions and performances to directly observe and analyze musical and aesthetic interactions, such as musical timing and the singer's visual expression; 2) conducting in-depth interviews with members of the "Indonesia Menyanyi" choir. Interviews were conducted with conductors, singers, and musical observers in a semi-structured manner to obtain a subjective and in-depth perspective on the aesthetics of virtual choirs and how they are technically implemented. This helped to understand individual and collective perceptions of the cooperation of the "Indonesia Menyanyi" choir in carrying out the virtual performance process; 3) administering an audience survey. An online survey was distributed to randomly selected viewers according to age who had watched the virtual performance. The aim of this was to collect response data related to the audience's opinion of the virtual aesthetics of "Indonesia Menyanyi" and their interpretation of the virtual performance of the "Indonesia Menyanyi" choir. This was associated with the values of Pancasila, the effectiveness of virtual performances, and the emotional impression or interpretation when seeing the virtual performance of the "Indonesia Menyanyi" Choir. From the results of these observations, the author took approaches to carry out analysis, which was comprehensive, in-depth, verified, and validated from various data sources, leading to more accurate and reliable conclusions regarding aesthetic harmony with Pancasila values seen musically. The Indonesian choir members sing multiculturally virtually during the pandemic.

The Virtual Choir "Indonesia Menyanyi" showcases a remarkable level of aesthetic harmony, which is greatly impacted by both technical factors and the diverse musical and cultural backgrounds of its participants. The disparity in technical proficiency among singers, particularly in the operation of recording

equipment and self-editing, can lead to inconsistent outcomes and compromise the overall visual and auditory harmony of the piece.

DISCUSSION

A. Development and Validation of Data Collection Instruments

This study accomplished the creation of an all-encompassing data collection tool to tackle these difficulties, which comprises:

1. Video and Audio Recording

Technical specifications are customized for each singer, ensuring that the recording quality meets the necessary standards for detailed aesthetic analysis. The utilization of high-resolution cameras and microphones that possess the ability to capture a broad dynamic range enables the recording of every musical and visual aspect in detail. This technology is particularly crucial when merging sounds and images from various locations to produce a unified and harmonious chorus. Audio analysis software such as SpectraLayers and Melodyne are utilized to examine frequency and timbre, enabling micro-adjustments to harmonization and pitch, which are vital in achieving aesthetic harmony among different singers.

2. In-depth Interview

Semi-structured interviews were carried out with a diverse group of professionals, including conductors, singers, music and aesthetics experts, and composers, to gain a comprehensive understanding of the aesthetic perceptions in virtual choirs. These interviews helped to identify and integrate key elements that contribute to aesthetic harmony. The interviews focused on various perspectives, including those of conductors, singers, composers, arrangers, and art critics, which aided in addressing complex aesthetic challenges.

The data obtained from the interviews was analyzed to identify common themes and variables that impact aesthetic performance, such as song interpretation, emotional harmony, and technical harmony. This analysis is crucial for determining the necessary interventions in training and technology.

3. Audience Survey

A survey specifically designed to assess the aesthetic perception of the audience based on visual and musical aspects. The data collected from this survey is critical in measuring the effectiveness of the aesthetic harmony that has

been achieved and determining areas that require improvement. This survey combines Likert scale rating questions with open-ended questions to obtain measurable feedback and in-depth personal narratives about the viewer's aesthetic experience. The survey design was adapted based on the initial stage of feedback to focus more on certain aspects such as audio clarity, visual synchronization, and emotional expression. This allows research to iteratively refine and adjust output based on audience response.

B. Implementation and Evaluation of Data Collection Methods

The implemented technique has effectively gathered comprehensive and pertinent data that facilitates the assessment and advancement of aesthetic harmony. Advanced recording methods and extensive interviews offer substantial qualitative information, while audience surveys offer crucial insights into audience reception of aesthetics, which is critical for evaluating overall aesthetic coherence.

1. Recording

Advanced recording technology, including high-quality microphones, high-resolution cameras, and sophisticated editing software, enables highly detailed capture of audio and visual subtleties. This is crucial for identifying and synchronizing subtle micro-expressions and vocal nuances among singers in different locations. With controlled studio settings and consistent technical standards, these recordings ensure that all singers were recorded under the same conditions, minimizing variability that could impact aesthetic harmony analysis.

2. Interview

Interviews with conductors, singers, and estheticians have shed light on the participants' understanding of each musical and visual element, which is crucial in determining the factors that affect aesthetic harmony and how to manage or enhance them. These interviews have also identified potential solutions and technical and artistic adaptations that can be implemented to improve aesthetic harmony, such as adjusting microphone placement, using audio filters, and employing more advanced visual editing techniques.

3. Surveys

Feedback received from audiences through surveys has provided important insight into the public's reception of the choir's aesthetic performance. This

includes an assessment of audio-visual harmony and general aesthetic satisfaction. The information from this survey is very useful for assessing the effectiveness of the recording arrangement and the overall presentation. It also provides a solid basis for making informed adjustments that will improve the aesthetic acceptability of the next iteration of the virtual choir project.

C. Recommendations for Further Instrument Development

1. Improvements in Recording Technology

To achieve consistent and high-quality recordings in virtual choirs, it is recommended to utilize advanced audio-visual technology that is capable of accurately capturing both sound and image. The use of professional equipment will help to improve the visual and acoustic harmony in virtual choirs,

ensuring that the recordings are of a consistent and high standard.

2. Singer and Conductor Training

Developing and implementing structured training programs for singers and conductors is crucial for equalizing understanding and technical and aesthetic abilities. These programs should focus on vocal technique, the use of recording technology, and musical interpretation, all of which are vital for creating a harmonious and visually appealing performance.

3. Development of a more targeted survey

Enhancing the specificity and sensitivity of the survey questionnaire's design to evaluate aesthetic aspects related to musical and visual diversity will yield more precise data collection and facilitate more in-depth analysis.



(Source from: <https://youtu.be/57aaAOXDQvI?si=hupzvtvibjEgznG6J>)

One of the benefits of Virtual Choir “Indonesia Menyanyi” is the ability to connect singers from various locations for a cohesive musical performance. By employing virtual technology, choir members can sing together simultaneously, even when physically distant, enabling extensive collaboration without being restricted by geographical boundaries. Another advantage is the flexibility in rehearsal and performance schedules, as well as easier access for members to participate in choral activities.

When performing virtually, Virtual Choir “Indonesia Menyanyi” can perform a wide range of songs based on the specified theme or program. They can perform a diverse repertoire, including Indonesian folk songs, regional songs, popular songs, religious songs, and contemporary works by local and international composers. This variety of

songs allows Virtual Choir “Indonesia Menyanyi” to present an interesting and diverse selection of music for their audience to enjoy.

Virtual Choir “Indonesia Menyanyi” is led by Tommyanto Adisaputra, who also leads the Bandung Choir. The choir comprises 2758 singers from all Indonesian citizens across the country, from Sabang to Merauke. The virtual choir “Indonesia Menyanyi” has set a Muri record for successfully performing the largest virtual choir in Indonesia. The songs performed include *Indonesia Tanah Air Beta*, *Sajojo*, *Sipatokaan*, *Angin Mamiri*, *Ampar-Ampar Pisang*, *Jange*, *SikSik Sibatumanikkam*, and *Bunga Joumpa*.

CONCLUSION

This research has succeeded in creating and validating a complete set of data collection

instruments that are designed specifically to analyze and improve aesthetic concepts in the "Indonesia Menyanyi" Virtual Choir. To achieve this, the study utilized high-quality audio-visual recordings, in-depth interviews with various parties involved, and structured audience surveys. By employing these methods, the study has effectively addressed and understood the challenges of aesthetic harmony that arise from the musical and cultural diversity of the participants. Audio-visual recordings have emerged as a critical tool for documenting and analyzing the aesthetic performance of virtual choirs. By incorporating technical specifications that capture important nuances, these recordings enable researchers to identify and adjust micro-timing and harmonization between singers who are located in different geographical areas. This clarity is crucial for evaluating and enhancing visual and auditory harmony, as well as ensuring that the final product reflects the desired aesthetic qualities.

In-depth interviews have yielded invaluable insights into the individual perspectives of singers, conductors, and musicologists regarding aesthetics in virtual choirs. These interviews helped identify crucial factors such as cultural influences, personal experiences, and technical expertise that contribute to aesthetic harmony. This information has been instrumental in developing more effective and adaptive interventions aimed at enhancing group cohesion and aesthetic integration. Audience surveys have provided qualitative data on how the performance was received by the audience. By analyzing audience responses, researchers were able to evaluate the effectiveness of various aesthetic aspects incorporated in the choir and provide recommendations based on audience preferences and reactions. This feedback is essential for the next iteration of virtual choral practice, allowing for adjustments that make performances more inclusive and aesthetically pleasing. The results of this research are not only applicable to the choral community in Indonesia but also offer insights that can be utilized globally. In today's digital era, which facilitates cross-border collaboration, understanding how to overcome aesthetic challenges in virtual choirs can enrich global artistic practice and contribute to the production of more harmonious and aesthetically satisfying artistic works worldwide.

The research findings suggest practical strategies for creating virtual choral practices that not only consider technical aspects but also place a high

value on aesthetic sensitivity, inclusivity, and cultural diversity that form the backbone of many current virtual choral communities. This study lays a strong foundation for future research and initiatives aimed at enhancing musical and visual interactions in an increasingly digitalized world.

The research points to the need for further advancements in recording technologies and analysis platforms that can more effectively integrate the musical and aesthetic elements of diverse singers. Moreover, it recommends more comprehensive training for singers and conductors to bridge the gap in aesthetic capabilities and sensitivities, which would help in improving the overall quality of singing.

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