

INITIAL DRAFT with specific comments

Organization, humor, lessons. Good to show stylistic variation

I remembered feeling so contented the first time I listened to my school traditional song of chorus band. And somehow my duck-like voice made it into such band!

Or has that duck, maybe, gone?

Comment [MSOffice1]: I think that this short sentence grabs attention but disrupts the flow.

The first week I was put to practice in Tenor group, scheduled to meet twice a week: one in that small group, the other with the rest. I found myself since the first meeting delayed among the friends, needing to pay so much attention that otherwise I could not bend my voice harmoniously with the other.

Comment [MSOffice2]: No need to capitalize this.

Comment [MSOffice3]: Good adverb.

When club teacher came to revise the band, she soon noticed me as a flaw of the group, told me to try singing it alone. *MY VOICE ALONE!* I thought it sounded buzz like flies fly around the ears. Then first she said I needed a lot more practice, wondering how could I get in here. Later she told me not to sing, that I still could do other things in the club like managing document instead. There's never been such duty in this club before!

Comment [MSOffice4]: Good imagery.

Comment [MSOffice5]: There, not here.

Feeling suspended, I told friends and was about to quit. Then friends in tenor group, wanting to help, offered me an extra class. I accepted their help and practiced with them two more hours a week. We tried to find ways to improve my performance from eating honey-lemon, normal warming up ma-mae-mee-mo-mu, to kneeling and drawing a long aaaooooooooo!!! I got better and better thank to all such things. I still needed a leading voice, but this time my voice could fly by itself once lifted from the ground. I made it! I went to the teacher if she thought I could join and she said my voice was just normal; normal was acceptable!

Comment [MSOffice6]: This is a good use of humor.

Comment [MSOffice7]: Wrong word choice.

I am so thankful for all my friends help and I miss the extra class we practice together. If I just got off without a second try, I would miss a chance to prove myself, maybe I would still maintain my duck-like voice by now, and I must not be singing in next month graduation date!

Comment [MSOffice8]: This should be the possessive form.

EDITOR'S REVISION

When the school conductor came to rehearse with our chorus, she soon noticed that my voice was the flaw of the group and asked to hear me sing alone. As soon as I began, I recognized that my croaking sounded like a fly buzzing at the ears, and the director immediately realized that she had isolated the problem in the chorus. She expressed consternation as to how I was admitted to the chorus, and created a brand-new administrative position for me just to keep me from singing!

However, I wanted to sing. I remembered the feeling of contentment that came over me when I first heard the chorus perform the school's song. Somehow my duck-like voice was admitted to the group. I was to rehearse twice a week, once with just the other tenors and once with the entire choir. Though I worked hard to blend my voice harmoniously, I could tell – as could the director – that I was not making the cut.

Dejected, I told friends that I planned to quit. Then something remarkable happened; the other tenors took the time to offer me extra classes. I practiced tirelessly with them for hours a week, and we found numerous exercises to improve my voice from warming up with ma-mae-mee-mo-mus to eating honey lemons. When I approached the director with my newly found voice, she said it was normal, and normal was acceptable.

I will always be thankful for the extra help the other tenors provided. Singing in a chorus has taught me how to blend my individual expressions with others.' But more than that, it has shown me that in working with a group sometimes those who lag behind just need a bit of individual attention to catch up with the rest. Because of this attention, the duck-like quacking subsided to a normal tone, and I now look forward to singing in next month's graduation.