

BEYOND TOLERANCE

affirming LGBTQ+ singers in the choral context

Nicky Manlove, MM (they/them)

nickymanlove.com/beyond-tolerance

nicky.manlove@gmail.com

Background

- High School in Missoula, MT
- Seattle University
- University of Arizona
- THEM Youth Ensemble

Our Responsibility I

Figure 1. Hearing Anti-LGBTQ Remarks from Students in Washington Schools
(percentage of LGBTQ students hearing remarks regularly)

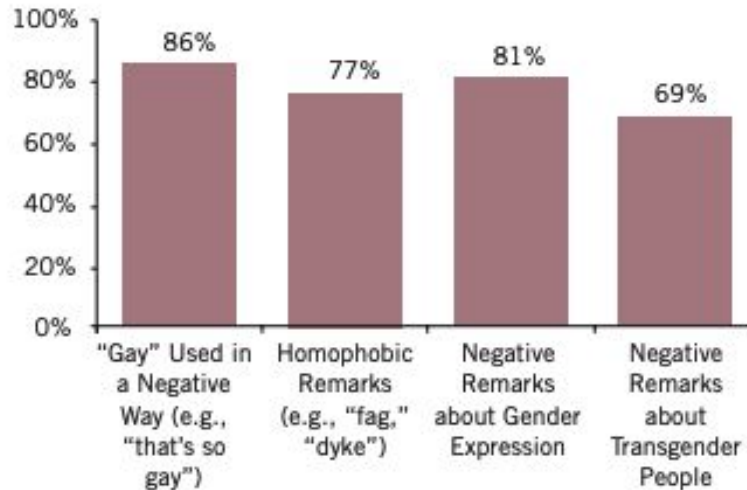
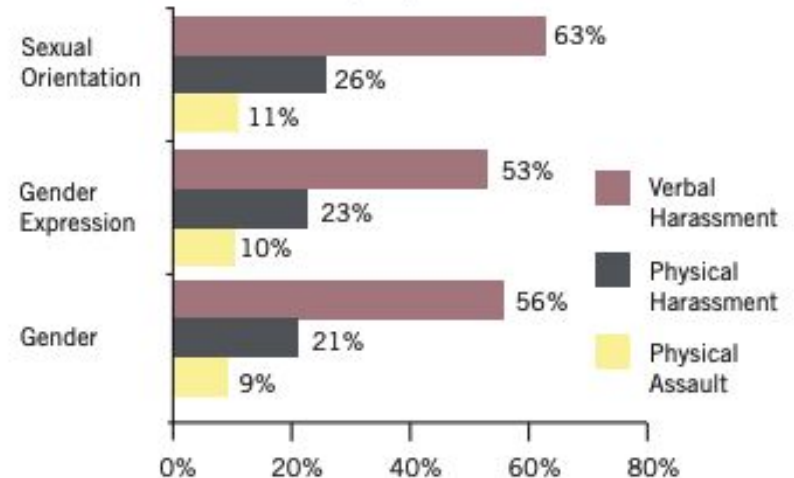


Figure 2. Anti-LGBTQ Harassment & Assault in Washington Schools
(percentage of LGBTQ students harassed or assaulted in the past year based on...)



Source: GLSEN, 2017.

Strategies for Supporting LGBTQ+ Singers

- Musical
 - Programming: Representation & Content

- Extra-musical
 - Ensemble Names
 - Concert Attire
 - Choir Culture

Musical Strategies: Programming

- **PROGRAMMING CONTENT**

- Does my repertoire about romance leave room for a variety of romantic experiences, or is it restricted to love between men and women?
- When describing gendered experiences, does my repertoire describe a diversity of gender expressions, or does it describe only one (usually the dominant one?)

- **PROGRAMMING REPRESENTATION**

- Are the works that I program predominantly by people of only one gender?
- What experiences or perspectives are missing from my programming (either on a specific concert, or in my programming in general?)

Extra-Musical Strategies: Names & Attire

- **ENSEMBLE NAMES**
 - What is the most accurate way to describe the intended or actual membership of my choir?
- **CONCERT ATTIRE**
 - What concert attire can I wear that is both aesthetically-appropriate, as well as affirming and accessible for all people?

Common Challenges

- I want to do more to support my LGBTQ+ students but I'm worried about getting pushback from my admin/parents/other students!
- I don't have any LGBTQ+ students but when I do I'll support them!
- I want to support my LGBTQ+ students but I'm afraid of doing/saying the wrong thing.

Questions?

BEYOND TOLERANCE

affirming LGBTQ+ singers in the choral context

Nicky Manlove, MM (they/them)

nickymanlove.com/beyond-tolerance

nicky.manlove@gmail.com