



# “Jugendsingen” as seen by its participants

## Selected results and analysis of an Austrian youth choir festival

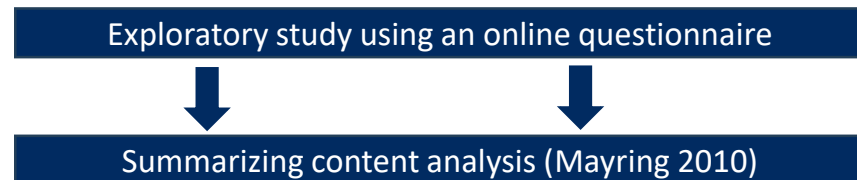
Poster at the Symposium for Research in Choral Singing, April 26<sup>th</sup> 2024, Chicago  
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**1. Introduction:** Choral singing has been highly valued in Austria for generations. 11% of the Austrian population sing in a choir (cf. Singing Europe, 2015). The Austrian youth choir festival “Jugendsingen” is the most important event for promoting singing among children and young people. It was founded in 1948 and has since been held 25 times at the district, state and national levels. Participation is open to Austrian children's and youth choirs as well as vocal ensembles from schools and extracurricular areas (cf. Announcement Youth Singing, 2023, p. 5).

### 2. Survey of choir conductors at the 25<sup>th</sup> Federal Youth Singing Competition in Klagenfurt (June 2023):

- $n = 27$  choir conductors; average age: 45 years
- Gender: 70% female, 26% male, 4% diverse
- Degrees: music education (67%), instrumental music education (30%), instrumental and vocal pedagogy (26%), choral conducting (26%), primary school education (19%), middle school education (19%), elementary music education (15%)
- Place of teaching: secondary school (33%), secondary school with a focus on music (26%), middle school for music (19%), primary with a focus on music (11%), middle school (11%)
- Conductors teach on average 13.8 years at their institution
- Musical profile of the participants:
  - Additional choral conducting activities (56% in total): including children's choir (53%), youth choir (47%), mixed choir (47%), vocal ensemble (20%), men's choir (13%)
  - 37% sing in a choir themselves
  - Average age when they began choral singing: 10.5 years
  - Length of time conducting a school choir: on average 14.5 years
  - 66% have attended additional choir conducting lessons in the last three years
  - 48% additional singing lessons

### 3. Methodology:



### 4. Preparation for attending the Austrian youth choir festival “Jugendsingen” and general support:

- Support from school management for work with school/class choir: 56% very good, 26% good, 15% less good
- Working within the quota of teaching units for the school/class choir: 27% good, 27% average, 23% less good, 19% very good
- Additional choir lessons with the school/class choir outside of regular lessons: 1-10 hours (64%); 11-20 hours (28%)

#### Legend:

**2023:** current survey of choir conductors at the “Jugendsingen”  
**2022:** survey of “Jugendsingen”-organizers  
**2024:** survey of participating students at the “Jugendsingen”  
**M = mean value of the answers on a 5-point likert scale**  
**1 = strongly agree; 5 = strongly disagree**

### 5. A comparison of perspectives on singing:

	2023	2022
Singing strengthens social cohesion	99%	79%
A singing event such as the “Jugendsingen” is an attraction for children/young people	93%	90%
Singing has a high status in Austrian society	M = 3,1	M = 2,8
Singing is a high priority in Austrian schools	M = 3,4	M = 3
Singing among children/young people is sufficiently promoted in Austria	M = 3,7	M = 3,6
Singing is very important to children/young people	M = 2,7	M = 2,5

### 6. A comparison of perspectives on the Austrian youth choir festival “Jugendsingen“:

	2023	2022	2024
The “Jugendsingen” is an important initiative to promote singing	M = 2,9	M = 1,4	
The “Jugendsingen” is an important contribution to promoting social cohesion	M = 1,7		
The “Jugendsingen” is in need of reform in terms of content	M = 3,3		
The “Jugendsingen” is an important source of inspiration for children's/young people's singing	M = 1,5	M = 1,5	
The “Jugendsingen” makes an important contribution to the musical education of children	M = 1,3	M = 1,6	
The “Jugendsingen” makes a significant contribution to the further development of choral singing	M = 1,4	M = 1,6	
The “Jugendsingen” is a very well-organized event	M = 1,7	M = 1,9	M = 1,7
The “Jugendsingen” has developed positively in recent years	M = 2,2		
Participation in the “Jugendsingen” is possible without any major hurdles	M = 2	M = 1,9	
The quality of the choirs has improved considerably in recent years	M = 2,2		