The normal development of voice in children: phonetographic aspects

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Introduction: The phonetographic measurements of children seem to be a help in placing them in choirs. But also in pathology, it is of value to be able to compare phonetograms to normal children of the same age.

Material: 48 voice-trained boys and 47 voice-trained girls in a school choir were examined in a stratified study, 4-5 children on each grade.

Methods: Phonetograms were made after the standard suggestion by the European Union of Phoniatricians. Averages and standards deviations for each grade were made in a computer programme constructed by the firm ‘Voice profile’.

Results: For each year during development of voice, the phonetograms and averages are presented: lowest and highest tones as well as maximum dynamic range, and area calculations. An introduction is made to our computerized phonetogram.

Discussion: In COST 2103 of Advanced Voice Assessment, a scientific study in the European Union, it is suggested that a standard for measurements of frequencies in the phonetograms are made. The measurements in our study were made manually. The averages and standard deviation in our computer programme is based on phonetography registered by a computer. This is also a reason for discussing the market of phonetography.