Throughout the video of the WSSU Choir singing “Lift Every Voice and Sing”, I was astounded with their use of dynamics and the overall unity of the ensemble. They followed the director seamlessly and made use of the dynamics to create the scene of African-Americans struggling yet eventually overcoming. They artistically get quieter and louder at key moments and also seem to play into the dynamics of the piano accompaniment to create a unity throughout. This unity is also seen amongst all of the members of the choir with their upright, confident posture and expressions that emphasize the victory of the African-American community for their civil rights.

The choir is also doing an amazing job with their facial expressions and use of diction. In the staccato-like section of measure 42-46, the ensemble perfectly annunciates their consonants in time with the beat. This section heavily reminds me of the beat of the drum while people are marching. This section conveys the unity of African-Americans during the civil rights movement and how they were in it together similarly to people marching along to a beat. Once the ensemble moves into the more legato section of the music, the members of the ensemble really get into the music physically. Some of the members lean forward and their facial expressions become more hopeful in a longing way. During measures 58-81, the music describes a prayer for God to guide their way and direct them along the right path. The ensemble wonderfully expresses this through their facial expressions and the way they lean forward as if in longing.

Something that the ensemble seemed to really achieve through this performance is their balance. Throughout the performance, all of the parts blended almost perfectly to create the appearance of a single voice. There was not one part that seemed to be louder or quieter than any of the other parts. This balance also seems to portray a sense of unity throughout the ensemble which contributes to the idea of the unity between African-Americans as they fought for their rights. Overall, the ensemble did a fantastic job of representing the true meaning of this song: African-American’s unity throughout the civil rights movement was exemplary and portrayed the true power of standing up for something that is wrong for the sake of everyone you love.