This study arose from a need to obtain more information on characteristics of vocal function to guide management of voice problems in pre-pubescent and pubescent choristers.

The aims were:-

- To establish normative data for male adolescent choristers
- To explore the relationship between fundamental frequency and the parameters of chronological age and biometric features.
- To identify features which may predict vocal maturation

From this information it sought to identify the characteristics of vocal function of male adolescent choristers age 6 years to 13 years, and to assess the influence of physiological changes and vocal training.

The study was designed as a longitudinal study of boys from a Cathedral Choir School. The study group diminished as senior boys left the school. 40 boys were assessed at the outset, 30 of that group after one year and 20 remaining one year later. The procedure was complex involving the co-ordination of several departments in a NHS hospital as well as the Cathedral Choir School. The evaluation involved:-

- Lung Function measurements
- Biometric and Audiometric Screening
- ENT examination
- Voice fundamental frequency measurements for a range of tasks using electrolaryngography.

In addition the boys completed a lifestyle questionnaire.

This part of the study explores the relationship between mean fundamental frequency of speech and reading, and the percentage of irregularity of vocal fold vibration derived from electrolaryngography.