What's this button do?

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This is a discussion of a few of common features in digital mixers that many choir directors may not be aware are already built into their new digital mixers.

Patch Bay

- It is an easy way to "rewire" your interface to make your life easier when mixing.
- It can be away to add flexibility to a hard-wired interface (for example in an auditorium) without having to rewire microphones

Gate

- The gate's function is to turn off the mic, unless a specific amount of sound is heard through that mic.
- I like to start at 60 db as starting point for the threshold
- Threshold is the level at which sound must go over, for the gate to open and allow sound through
- Attack how quickly the gate "opens" to allow sound through. Usually very quickly
- Release is how quickly the gate "closes" to allow the mute to turn on. Shouldn't be too quick. Otherwise, it can give a clipped sound.

Compressor

- The job of the compressor is to regulate the dynamic range of the person or instrument using the mic.
- The attack and release are the same as the gate. Again, attack quick, release a bit slower.
- The threshold (or knee) is the level at which the sound starts to compress
- The ratio is the amount of sound compressed.
- Gain is volume added post compression. Used to help equalize singers with less power to singers with more power.

** Using a gate and compressor combined are a powerful way of controlling extra sound and too much volume in your productions. **

EQ

- Bass roll off is very helpful for stage mics or area mics for helping with foot traffic and rolling equipment. 80 hz is a good starting place
- A midrange boost is often good for singers
- A very tight band can help with ringing speakers and mics.