

Repertoire & Resource

A Garden of Information

From Your R & S Chairs

High School Repertoire and Resource

Megan Morgan

Decision—Debra Scroggins

Alliance AMP0788

Accompanied—Piano and Flute

Text combines English and Cherokee to describe the difficulties of a Cherokee woman in love with a man outside the Native American race. There is minimal 3 part divisi in women's part and no divisi in the tenor or bass. Very accessible.

At the Round Earth's Imagined Corners

Williametta Spencer

Shawnee Press 35001393

*On Mississippi prescribed list and listed as a Grade 4 on the Texas list,

Unaccompanied SATB

Text is based on John Donne's Holy Sonnet VII Compound mixed meter piece. Recommended for more advanced ensembles

The Sweetheart of the Sun

Eric Barnum

Walton 08501563

Unaccompanied SSAATBB

Based on the poem "Ruth" by Thomas Hood Long legato phrases with strong dissonances.

Resource: Beyond Singing: Blueprint for the Exceptional Choral Program by Stan McGill and Elizabeth Volk

Published by Hal Leonard

Gives ideas on handbooks, lesson planning, recruitment, fundraising, travel, banquets, traditions and more. Comes with CD full of printable gets, samples and templates. Perfect for first year teachers trying to get started and for veteran teachers looking for new ideas.

Ethnic & Multicultural Repertoire & Resources

Harlan Zachery

Zui Zui by Winton Yoichiro White

Pavane Publishing P1483

SATB, a cappella

This playful piece is based on a Japanese children's folk melody. Use of ostinato and aleatoric effects. Translation and pronunciation guide included.

Amavolovolo arranged by Rudolf de Beer

Hal Leonard Corporation 08749217

This song hails from the pre-democratic days of South Africa, however it still sung there today. Amavolovolo is quite rhythmic and this arrangement includes suggested dance movements. Optional percussion includes shaker, bass drum and djembe. Improvisation is encouraged on the instrumental parts.

The Light in the Wilderness by Dave Brubeck, text from the Bible with original texts by Dave and Lola Brubeck

Shawnee Press, Available through G. Schemer Rental Library

A 1968 oratorio for mixed chorus, baritone solo, symphony orchestra, organ, and optional keyboard improvisation. The composer notes that this work may be performed in sections, with or without the bass or percussion, or in many cases, even a cappella. Experimentation is encouraged. The jazz influence is quite apparent.

International Dictionary of Black Composers edited by Samuel A. Floyd, Jr./Center for Black Music Research

Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 1999

ISBN 1-884964-27-3

A tremendous 2-volume resource on black composers and their music. Each entry includes biographical information, partial, and often complete works lists, and a list or articles written about the composer and a brief narrative on selected works. This resource is a great starting point for future research on a given composer.

Middle School Repertoire & Resources

Tammy Maxie

Banjo Pickin' Girl

Tim Sharp and Andrea Ramsey

Hal Leonard Corporation

SSA

Fell in love with this piece at honor choir and couldn't wait to sing with my middle school girls! It helps to have a banjo player on my faculty too! Great to teach tempo change to get those eyes on the conductor! Always fun to program a humorous song!

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey

Arr. J Reese Norris

Lawson Gould

SSAA

What better piece to have in your folder when you know the arranger? My students think that is cool! This piece has already become their favorite! With simplistic harmonies at the beginning, the ending surprises you with more sophisticated part writing. Lovely piece!

Cry Havoc!

D. Farrell Smith

Carl Fischer

TBB

My guys love singing about war and love! This piece written in open score is an easy piece to begin the year as the voice ranges fit perfect for the changing voices in my choir.

We Shall Not Sleep

Laura Farnell

Alliance Music Publications

T(T)B or C(C)B

I love including instruments other than the piano into my concerts! Anytime I can utilize the amazing band students we have it not only impresses my parents but brings our two programs together! This piece is challenging but offers several voicing options to make it fit your choir. The text is one they will remember for a long time!

One-Minute Sight Singing

Ronald Slabbinck and Holly Shaw-Slabbinck

Neil A Kjos Music Company, Publisher

I love this resource because it teaches the essentials of sight reading without cutting into valuable rehearsal time! The book is also divided into treble and bass with the examples exactly the same just in the right clef for my changed voices! This resource also offers a theory component with student books and a test bank. Easy to use and my students find success.

I Will Lift My Voice and Sing!

Victor C. Johnson

Choristers Guild

SSA

Great opener! This piece is energetic with tons of teaching moments included! Choristers Guild provides additional resources to help you move beyond teaching the notes!

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Men's Choirs Repertoire & Resources

Jabarie Glass

How Great Our Joy!; arr. Craig Courtney; Beckenhorst Press CU 1013

This setting of a traditional German carol, voiced for four-part men's chorus, piano, and optional string quarter, is absolutely exquisite. This arrangement alternates between unison singing and accessible for part harmony. This piece is melody driven and is therefore great for developing a beautiful legato line. Your men will fall in love with this piece.

A King Is Born; Gorieb & Houston/arr. Sarsany; Morning Star MSM-50-1135

This exciting arrangement is a must for a men's chorus feature at a winter holiday program! It is voiced for four-part men's chorus; tenor solo; piano, and optional instrumentation—marimba, shaker, congas, and bass guitar. Though voiced for four-part chorus, the arrangement contains several two-part passages and the four-part harmonies are very accessible. This may even be done by a middle school boys group with some minor adjustments to the bass line. You must have a fine tenor soloist to pull off this arrangement. Check out a performance of this piece performed by the Luther College Norsemen with full instrumentation on YouTube!

Resource:

Vocal Transformation for Secondary School Choirs; Christine Bass;

Hall Leonard 08749640

If you are looking for useful and effective exercises to develop the sound of your ensembles, this is the resource for you! In this DVD, Christine Bass, former choral director at Cherry Hill West High School (New Jersey), documents her process of developing strong, confident, and beautiful singing in her choral program. The best thing about this DVD is that you get to see her develop voices with the entry-level choir all the way to the advanced ensemble.

Children's Choir Repertoire & Resources

Scott Sexton

"Sing to Me", Andrea Ramsey, 2-part, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, SBMP1003. It is apparent in this piece that Andrea Ramsey knows the young voice. She has superbly set the text in ranges and harmonies that are comfortable to even the novice young singer. Very accessible for 2-part choirs of all levels, and for unison treble choirs looking for their first 2-part pieces.

"Little David, Play on Your Harp", arr. Rollo Dillworth, 2-part, Hal Leonard, HL08749820. A fun spiritual that your young choristers will love! A lively gospel "groove" throughout, this piece will work nicely as a concert closer. Set in the Key of F, a great key for voices this age, it makes your singers sing in their most appropriate and healthiest ranges, and encourages them to broaden their ranges. (Part 1 goes to 5th-line "F").

"Gerakina", arr. Henry Leck, 3-Part Treble, Hal Leonard, HL08750800. I found this jewel several years ago. A very fun Greek folk piece set in 7/8! The kids love this dance-like piece and beg to sing it again and again. The Greek is not difficult to tackle and the piece uses the same two lines of text over and over. Don't let the 3-part voice scare you away- it opens in unison, eventually goes to two-part, and simply adds a descant at the end for the third part. I am glad to see that this one made the list for this school year's MS ACDA Children's Choir Festival!

Resource: Educating Young Singers: A Choral Resource for Teacher Conductors- by Mary Goetze, Angela Broeker, and Ruth Boshkoff. JW Pepper #1008600. A Book and DVD combo. This book contains 11 Chapters of everything you needed to know about working with young singers. Covers everything from rep selections, to vocal technique, to rehearsal planning and much more! Written by 3 master choral teachers, this is one of the most comprehensive resources on young voices out there!

Womens Choir Repertoire & Resources

Holly Beck

Misericordia

J. Norris - Santa Barbara Music Publishing

SBMP1236

Publisher Description: Psalm 121 is here joined by the word 'misericordia', a Latin term meaning compassion. Impressive melodies are the hallmark of this special piece, the piano beautifully adding to the splendor of it all. The composer treats misericordia to a special musical motif that several times makes its statement. This piece is a true work of art.

I LOVE this song...and I should. It was commissioned by my choral department from my dear friend Reese Norris to honor a family in our community who tragically lost a child. It is beautiful and easily accessible for an upper level middle school or intermediate level high school SSA choir. The piano is stunning and compliments the voice parts beautifully. This piece is taking off in several states and I wanted to be certain that the choir directors in the state of it's creator & commissioned choir had the opportunity to program it as well!

Ah! Si Mon Moine Voulait Danser

arr. Donald Patriquin - Earthsongs

W-07C

Publisher Description - This Canadian folksong from Quebec is arranged for voices, piano, and optional percussion. Light, spirited, and full of fun, it has been a popular choice for festivals, adjudications, concerts and contest appearances for more capable choirs. This is the third piece of The Six Songs of Early Canada.

I have to make myself stay away from Donald Patriquin and the Earthsongs webpage! Over the years my ladies have performed several of his pieces. This one has its challenges including cross voicing, syncopation, and A LOT of French! It is predominantly a call & response with the girls split in half and then the choruses are SSA. The text tells of a young lady who dreams of what should would have to do in order to get the local priest to dance. Super fun. Super cute. Takes a groups with personality!

Lux Aeterna

Michelle Roueché

WLF133

Publisher Description - A rich and beautiful setting, this work illustrates that the heavenly light will always overcome the darkness. It is the perfect work for honing intonation and phrasing. For mature high school women's choirs and beyond, this is a fine festival selection, also suitable for any concert program.

With the aleatoric section, continuous dissonance, key modulation, vast range, & solo - this SSAA piece is lovely for upper level high school or a collegiate womens choir. I think this piece is what the angels in Heaven sounds like! Don't be fooled though, it is very difficult and can be tough to keep it in tune!

RESOURCE:

One-Minute Sight Singing

Holly Shaw-Slabbinck & Ronald Slabbinck - Neil A Kjos Music

One of my favorite classroom tools are the "One Minute Sight Singing" books. I use these with 6 grade - 12 grade choir members. These handy little books come in two levels (Beginner/Intermediate & Intermediate/Advanced) and can be used with treble clef or bass clef by simply flipping the book over! Throughout the two levels several keys are covered as well as both simple and compound meters. The rhythms steadily increase in difficulty and the authors have thoughtfully used step wise progressions and skips very strategically. We use these daily and I can see a huge difference in my choirs since we began using these a few years ago.

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College & University Repertoire & Resources

Phillip Stockton

I hope you are having a successful start to the new year. As the junior member of the collegiate choral faculty in the state there is likely nothing I can bring to your attention that you are not already aware. That being said perhaps I can encourage you to revisit something of years past that you have not visited recently. This year I have programmed a piece by Hildegard von Bingen. It has been a welcome challenge for the students and myself. It has allowed us to explore musical practices of the Medieval period while also bringing to light a composer's music that is often overlooked as a music history exercise. Consider bringing this wonderful composer's music to the 21st century audience.

With the passing of Stephen Paulus, I feel that it is important to remember the vast amounts of music that Paulus gave the choral community in his short life. His family and colleagues have released stories and videos from Paulus as he discusses the composing process for many of his beloved pieces. I would encourage you to read some of the inspiring stories that give insight into a wonderful composer (<http://stephenpaulus.com/blogs/news>) as well as explore his musical library.

The last composer I would like to discuss is Dan Forrest. Dan is a rapidly rising composer and has written Requiem for the Living which is a beautiful tribute to those who are left behind from death. It is scored for small orchestra and soloists. Forrest's ability to write a beautiful melody is evident throughout this piece of music. I would encourage you all to listen to this piece and consider programming it for your masterwork in the near future.

I hope this entry has sparked you to look in a different direction, or perhaps brought you down memory lane to past experiences. If you have any ideas that you would like to contribute to the blog please email me at: phstockton@muw.edu. Hope you have a great year!!

O Frondens Virga is arranged by Drew Collins based on the chant of the same name by Hildegard von Bingen. We will sing the original chant and then perform the arrangement to give the audience a reference point for the piece.

The Road Home by Stephen Paulus (one of my favorite Paulus pieces)

Requiem for the Living by Dan Forrest

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