The Great Choral Treasure Hunt VI

## Young Voices

Margaret Jenks, Randy Swiggum, \& Rebecca Renee Winnie Friday, October 31, 2008 • 8:00-9:15 AM • Lecture Hall, Monona Terrace Music packets courtesy of J.W. Pepper Music

J Derek Holman: Rattlesnake Skipping Song<br>5. From Creatures Great and Small<br>Boosey \& Hawkes OCTB6790 [Pepper \#3052933]<br>Poem by Dennis Lee<br>From Alligator Pie<br>SSA and piano<br>』Vincent Persichetti: dominic has a doll<br>From Four Cummings Choruses Op. 98<br>e.e. cummings text<br>Elkam-Vogel/Theodore Presser 362-01222 [Pepper \#698498]

Another recommendation from this group of choruses: maggie and milly and molly and may
\& David Ott: Garden of Secret Thoughts
Plymouth HL-534 [Pepper \#5564810]
Other Recommendations:
$>$ Geralad Finzi: Dead in the Cold (From Ten Children's Songs Op. 1) Boosey \& Hawkes [Pepper \#1542752]
> Elam Sprenkle: O Captain, My Captain! (From A Midge of Gold) Boosey \& Hawkes [Pepper \#1801455]
> Carolyn Jennings: Lobster Quadrille (From Join the Dance) Boosey \& Hawkes [Pepper \#1761790]
> Victoria Ebel-Sabo: Blustery Day (The Challenge) Boosey \& Hawkes [Pepper \#3050515\} unison and piano
> Paul Carey: Seal Lullaby Rudyard Kipling
Roger Dean [Pepper \#10028100\}
> Zoltán Kodály: Ladybird
Boosey \& Hawkes [Pepper \#158766]

From: Garden of Secret Thoughts
2 part and piano

## Men's Voices

$\boldsymbol{\int}$ Ludwig van Beethoven: Wir haben ihn gesehen<br>Alliance AMP 0668 [Pepper \# 10020264] Edited by Alexa Doebele<br>Christus am Ölberge (Franz Xavier Huber)<br>TTB piano (optional orchestral score)

## Women's Voices

$\boldsymbol{\int}$ Princess Lil'uokalani, Arr. Hatfield: Ahe lau Makani<br>Boosey \& Hawkes M-051-47215-4 [Pepper \#3274636]<br>Hawaii<br>3 part treble, guitar, bass<br>$\boldsymbol{f}$ G.F. Handel: $O$ lovely peace<br>Boosey \& OCTB6868 [Pepper \# 3050911] Edited by Lee Kesselman<br>from Judas Maccabeus<br>SA, keyboard reduction

## Mixed Voices

d Jackson Hill: In Winter's Keeping<br>Hinshaw HMC2096 [Pepper \#10018540]<br>Princess Nukata ( $7^{\text {th }}$ century Japanese poem)<br>SSSAAATTTBBB (3 SATB Choirs) a cappella

## \& György Orbán: Daemon Irrepit Callidus

The text is anonymous medieval Goliardic text from an eight-verse hymn found in "Anonymi Hungari affectus in Jesum super omnia amabilem" (Anonymous Hungarian expressions to the above loveliest Jesus)
Hinshaw HMC1537 [Pepper \#3094182]
SATB a cappella

## CANONS

| J Welcome, Every Guest | Knoxville Harmony and in Sacred Harp | 4 part canon in handout |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Jilliam Billings: When Jesus Wept | The New England Psalm Singer | 4 part canon on www.cpdl.org |

Many additional canons highlighted in The Great Choral Treasure Hunts I-V
> William Billings: Shiloh

SATB or other in handout: RRW Edition - free permission to copy/perform granted

## FELIX MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY (1809-1847) <br> $200{ }^{\text {TH }}$ BIRTH ANNIVERSARY IN 2009!

These and many more titles are available on the Choral Public Domain Library www.cpdl.org and www.handlo.com

| $\boldsymbol{J}$ Abendlied | Heinrich Heine | SA, piano |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\boldsymbol{J}$ Die Nachtigall | Johann Wolfgang von Goethe | SATB a cappella |
| $\boldsymbol{J}$ Heilig | Sanctus text | SATB/SATB a cappella |
| $\boldsymbol{J}$ O Rest in the Lord | From Elijah | unison, keyboard reduction |
| $\boldsymbol{J}$ Lift Thine Eyes | From Elijah | SSA a cappella |
| $\boldsymbol{J}$ He, Watching over Israel | From Elijah | SATB - chorus only in this edition |

Edition with keyboard reduction available on cpdl or www.handlo.com (\$6.50 and permission to copy)
Another Recommendation:
There shall a star from Jacob From Christus
www.handlo.com (\$15.50 and permission to copy)

| Rebecca's "EliJaH" Project <br> Combined HS Choirs and Orchestra, Baritone Guest Artist, Minor Student Solos and some movements by individual choirs About 40 minutes in length |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Introduction: Recitative - Elijah <br> Overture (Representing the three years of famine | As God the Lord of famine) |
| 1. Chorus - The People | Help, Lord! |
| Recitative Chorus (Top SATB Choir) | The deeps afford no water! |
| 2. Duet with Chorus - The People Lord, B | Lord, Bow Thine Ear to Our Prayer |
| 10. Recitative - Elijah, Ahab and Chorus | horus As God the Lord |
| 11. Chorus - Priests of Baal | Baal, We Cry to Thee |
| 12. Recitative - Elijah | Call Him Louder |
| Chorus - Priests of Baal | Hear our cry, O Baal |
| 13. Recitative - Elijah | Call him louder |
| Chorus - Priests of Baal | Baal! Baal! |
| 14. Recitative and Air - Elijah | Draw near, all ye people |
| 15. Chorale - Angels (Madrigal) | Cast Thy Burdens |
| 16. Recitative - Elijah O Thou, Wh | O Thou, Who makest thine angel spirits |
| Chorus - The People The | The fire descends from heaven! |
| 26. Air - Elijah | It is enough! |
| 27. Recitative | See, now he sleepeth |
| 28. Chorus - The Angels (Treble Clef Choir) | lef Choir) Lift thine eyes |
| 29. Chorus - Angels (Top SATB Choir) | ir) He , Watching Over Israel |
| 43. Chorus And Then S | And Then Shall Your Light Break Forth |

## Randy’s "Elljah" Project

Combined HS Choirs and Orchestra, Baritone Guest Artist,
Minor Student Solos and some movements by individual choirs
The same as Rebecca's excerpts, plus these additional movements (total of 60 minutes in length):
17. Aria-Elijah
34. Chorus
35. Recitative, Quartet, \& Chorus
36. Chorus

Is not his word like a fire?
Behold, God the Lord passed by
Holy is God the Lord (beautiful use of treble choir)
Then did Elijah the Prophet

## Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

$350{ }^{\text {TH }}$ Birth AnNiversary in 2009!
These and many more titles are available on the Choral Public Domain Library www.cpdl.org and www.handlo.com

| $\boldsymbol{J}$ | Come Ye Sons of Art | From Come Ye Sons of Art |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Entire ode, full score, and parts are available on cpdl and handlo |  |
| $\boldsymbol{J}$ | Sound the Trumpet | From Come Ye Sons of Art |
| $\boldsymbol{J}$ | Strike the Viol | From Come Ye Sons of Art |

Remember the Dido and Aeneas excerpt highlighted in The Great Choral Treasure Hunt V!

## Purcell Duets

A great Purcell duet book: Henry Purcell Ten Duets: Book One. Edited by Timothy Robert. Stainer \& Bell/ Galaxy Music Corporation, 1979. These duets are found in this collection. This collection is used on the WSMA Solo \& Ensemble list. Consider these in various combinations (treble voices, men's voices, mixed voices).

1) We the spirits of the air
2) Two daughters of this aged stream are we
3) Shepherd, shepherd, leave decoying
4) My dearest, my fairest
5) Sound the trumpet
6) Lost is my quiet for ever

## Some Thoughts on Quality Music

"Swimming Upstream" \& "Swimming Upstream Part II: Hooking Singers on Great Music" - Two articles by Randal Swiggum in the NC-ACDA newsletter Melisma (Winter 2005 and Spring/Summer 2005) available online at www.ncacda.org.

## Translation Resources

Translations of many of the works cited on the list of the six Great Choral Treasure Hunts can be found in these references.
$>$ Ron Jeffers: Translation and Annotations of Choral Repertoire: Volume I Sacred Latin Texts (earthsongs)
$>$ Ron Jeffers and Gordon Paine: Translation and Annotations of Choral Repertoire: Volume II German Texts (earthsongs)
> Gordon Paine: Translation and Annotations of Choral Repertoire: Volume III French \& Italian Texts (earthsongs)

## Some Suggestions for Your Treasure Hunt

- Visit a nearby college library. Peruse the collected works of great composers. Some are online!
- http://nma.redhost24-001.com/DME/nma/start.php?1=2 (Mozart)
- http://www.brahms-institut.de/web/bihl notenschrank/ausgaben/noten start.html (Brahms)
- Seek out recommendations and lists from colleagues whom you trust.
- Attend convention performances. Save the programs. Make notes to yourself as you listen.
- Consider the suggestions students make from their summer music camp repertoire.
- Listen to choral music. Attend concerts. Purchase CDs and professional recordings. (Suggestion: Use the Classical Music Advanced Search at Amazon.com to find professional recordings - it is a remarkable search engine. Also, iTunes now has a large selection of choral music.)
- Check out the Choral Public Domain Library (www.cpdl.org) and Handlo Music (www.handlo.com).
- When do U.S. works pass into public domain? Easy answer, if published before 1923 - more information here: http://www.unc.edu/~unclng/public-d.htm
- Look in choral collections. Permission to photocopy can be sought from the publisher.
- www.choralnet.org
- Start a personal file of single octavos.
- Buy single copies from lists of quality music offered by individuals respected in the profession.
- Throw out almost all music/CDs sent by publishers. ©


## Previous Treasure Hunt Lists

The Great Choral Treasure Hunts I, II, III, IV, \& V are available at: http:// www.wmea.com/CMP/repertoire

## CMP SUMMER WORKSHOP: JUNE 22-26, 2009 at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

Margaret Jenks has been teaching for 16 years, most of them directing middle and high school choirs in Waukesha, and is currently a conductor with the Madison Youth Choirs, working with Tallis (introductory boychoir), Purcell (beginning boys) and Holst (advanced boys). Margaret has been active as a member of the CMP project and in a variety of roles with WMEA and WCDA. mjenks@tds.net

Randal Swiggum has conducted choirs around the world and loves to talk about good music of all kinds. A long-time member of the CMP project, he has taught at Whitefish Bay H.S., Verona H.S., Lawrence University, and UW-Milwaukee. He is currently Music Director of the Elgin Youth Symphony, Education Conductor for the Elgin Symphony, a boychoir conductor with the Madison Youth Choirs, and a PhD candidate in Musicology at UW-Madison. rswiggum@wisc.edu

Rebecca Renee Winnie has taught high school choral music for more than 25 years, most of it at Homestead High School in Mequon, WI. She has served on the CMP committee since 1997 and especially enjoys the adventure of searching for diverse and powerful music to study with her students. rwinnie@mtsd.k12.wi.us

## INTRODUCINGTHESE PIECES

## Warm-Ups, Strategies for teaching, \& How to "Sell" Great Pieces To Your Students

## * Holman: Rattlesnake Skipping Song (Ideas from Randy)

- Begin by reading the poem as a group (on a separate sheet of paper or on the board). Enjoy the sounds of the poem? What's it about? (Hard to say, really). How does it make you feel? (That's an easier question.) It's definitely not really about rattlesnakes or caterpillars.
- This is not a piece where solfège helps in the learning. But starting with rhythm does. Speaking the text many times, in rhythm, with the printed dynamics (starting with a whisper, doing a dramatic crescendo) and encouragement to speak it in the most expressive, spooky, or mysterious, or goofy, or whatever voice possible. Observe the staccatos and tenutos carefully. These words just taste good in your mouth. After students are comfortable with the rhythm, add the piano part (to the speaking). Make an event out of it-a suspenseful build-up. The piano part, combined with this creepy melody, makes this the Salvador Dali painting of youth music.
- Final s's are in issue in this piece. The very final one (the punchline) is easy, but m .15 is just going to be messy until students begin to hold "loose" a full two eighth note taps. Use mm. 14-15 as a warm-up, beginning in D minor, and going up by half steps, so students get lots of practice at a crisp, very short, very precisely placed "s."
O Parents are always doling out serious instructions that, to a kid, don't always seem very logical or necessary. Is this piece a surreal commentary on that (from a kid's perspective)? Once the melody and text are VERY familiar (and by the way, you can spend weeks just singing the first verse in unison, over and over, without danger of boredom), ask students to write their own "advice" poem, using the same rhythm and tune. Perform them (or just speak them) for the class.
- The tune feels completely random to us trained music teachers, but is actually quite easy to learn. It is most assuredly not random, though. It's built almost exclusively on playing with thirds. Nearly every measure depends on thirds (or their inversion), which helps hold the piece together. Once students have figured this out (and you've analyzed it as a group to find all of them) ask: when does the composer first make it clear that the piece is about thirds? (Answer: the first measure of the introduction). Don't forget the mm. 9-10 also create thirds (D to B)
- IMPORTANT: Don't emphasize the silly aspect of the piece, but rather the creepy, surreal aspect. That will keep kids wondering about it, and hooked on its elusive meaning. I still don't know what to make of it. I just know it gives me the creeps.


## * Persichetti: dominic has a doll (Ideas from Randy)

- This piece works with older middle-schoolers and any high school choirs, mixed, treble, or men's.
- Again, start with reading the poem (apart from the octavo). Notice the peculiarities and whimsies of e.e. cummings' style. Ask lots of questions, especially ones that begin with "why?" How old is the speaker of the poem? How do you know? What does "wistful" mean? Why does the poem say "buried" instead of "dumped" or "threw?" Why "so of course?" What do those words imply? The list of possible questions is endless with this rich poem. It's important to help students realize that poems are not intended primarily to give information but rather to generate a mood, a feeling, or an impression. Helping students to understand a poem's mood and effect on them will open it up for them-if they see it merely as a story or a series of statements, it will always be baffling to them.
- Rhythm is more important than anything in this piece (and what makes it fun). Lots of speaking in rhythm before pitches are added will ensure success. Work in very small chunks, and learn the piece over a longer period of time. Have students discover the rhythm "dominic" in the piano part wherever it appears (mm. 2, 3, 25, etc.)
- This piece is also about thirds. Help students to find them. It's also about open fifths. Find them, too. What's the feel of a third vs. an open fifth? How do those intervals color the words of the poem where they appear?
- Something to try: if you are singing it with mixed voices (men in the lower octave) try jumping to a completely treble range chord on the final "dolls," with basses singing a falsetto Gb , tenors on Bb , altos on Db , etc. The effect is magical.
It will take many, many practices to get the basses to leap from B below middle C (on "than") to the Gb, but once they hear the major $7^{\text {th }}$ chord and can tune it, they will love it. Create a warm-up that helps them hear major $7^{\text {th }}$ chords:

Sopranos: Sol Fa Sol La Ti<br>Altos: Sol Fa Mi Fa Sol<br>Tenors: Sol Fa Sol Fa Mi<br>Basses: Sol Fa Mi Re Do

All hold their last note, to hear chord. Men sing in falsetto. All start on G above middle C. After a few days of repetition, move the starting pitch up and down. You could even add words to your warm-up: "less alive than doll."

- A tip: have students number measures. It's impossible to rehearse this piece effectively without being able to refer to specific measures.


## * David Ott: Garden of Secret Thoughts (Ideas from Margaret) <br> Why do minor chords with an added $7^{\text {h }}$ say "This is only a dream..."?

- Questions and Ideas to Consider
- How does the raising/lowering of Fa and Ti help create a unique musical context for this text? (A great musical opportunity to show how "accidentals" are quite "intentional"!)
- Listen to Fauré's Pavane and explore the similarities \& differences with this piece, and why the composer might have borrowed Fauré's musical ideas for this text.
- Why do you think there so much music without any text (only piano)?
- What other ways can you think of to sonically create a place to have the freedom to dream, discover and imagine? Are there other compositions that do this? (Try listening to Saint-Saëns "Aquarium" from The Carnival of the Animals, Satie's Gymnopedie, or John Lennon’s Imagine.)
- The Poor Wayfaring Do

Students may theoretically understand that Do can be anywhere and that it can move, but this game helps them to experience the feeling of Do moving from one place to another and the surprising/ unsettling feeling that the shift can create.

- While singing up a traditional scale, have one hand sign and another hand come in to take over with a new "Do."
- It is more fun if the "take-over" hand has some dramatic personality.
- Introducing the Piece
- The piano part plays such a major and exposed role in this piece. (A great pianist is crucial!) One could introduce this piece by listening through the work performed only by the piano.
- I always give students some questions or things to consider before they listen. For example, "If this music was the movie soundtrack, what would be happening in the movie?
- Students could use only abstract lines, colors and shapes to show the mood or emotions represented by the music. What is interesting about this piece is that there will probably be disagreement on whether it is scary, hopeful, sad, exciting, etc... Of course, the "why" follow-up is where the fun thinking really begins!
- Messing With Modality

Students love the first time they realize that those accidentals on the page have a solfege equivalent. It gives meaning to notes that aren't expected, and helps them "make sense." Plus, the hand signs are so helpful in showing the difference between Fa and Fi and Ti and Te!

- Use Do Re Mi Fa and Do Re Mi Fi, as well as La Ti Do Re and Re Do Te La as a warm-up and then have them locate places in the score that use these patterns.
- Use "sing where I point" strategy with a solfège ladder on the board, with an added Fi and Te.
- Give Fi and Te a little personality. Assign students to the different solfège syllable and rather than pointing to the board, point to them. You can give a "special costume" (like a hat, Groucho Marx disguise, scarf, pirate patch, etc... to the Fi and Te people).


## * Beethoven: Wir haben ihn gesehen (Ideas from Randy)

- Why do this piece?
- Students should know Beethoven, like they should know Shakespeare, Homer, Galileo, and Martin Luther King.
- It's an accessible work for young men's ranges, not long, and only in 3 parts, TTB.
- It is a narrative, highly-charged piece from a dramatic oratorio which is a good opportunity for vivid vocal storytelling.
- Do it in German. Students feel more grown-up, they invest more deeply, and the sound-world of the piece is more authentic in German. For fun, once in a while sing it in the English translation. Have students write in a literal translation, so they know, for example, that "Gericht" means judgment.
- Articulations really matter in $18^{\text {th }}$ century style. Listen to the recording to hear the differences between the marcato, staccato, and legato of the strings and of the voices. Have your pianist listen to the recording, too.
- Look at visual art that depicts the scene. One helpful site is www.biblicalart.com. Search for "Jesus is Arrested" under "Passion" under New Testament.



## * Hatfield: Ahe Lau Makani (Ideas from Rebecca)

- Do Re Mi Fa Mi Re Do Fa Re Do
$\begin{array}{lllllll}1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 1+2+3+1\end{array} \quad$ (sing on counts)
- Do Mi Sol Do $\uparrow$ Sol Mi Do
- Sing while alternating a $6 / 8$ and $3 / 4$ feel (meter) with each exercise - help with the accompaniment
- Have students sway with primary beats singing - two larger for $6 / 8$, three smaller for $3 / 4$
- Have students move arms in circles while singing - two larger for $6 / 8$, three smaller for $3 / 4$
- Choose a small section of Ahe Lau Makani where the alteration is obvious and count sing.
- I used m. 17-28: m. 17 in $3 / 4 ; 18-19$ in $6 / 8 ; 20-22$ in $3 / 4 ; 23$ in $6 / 8 ; 24-25$ in $3 / 4 ; 26-27$ in $6 / 8$; and 28 in $3 / 4$.
- Don't forget to use "I like to be in America" as an example: $123456,1+2+3+$, etc.
- Consider asking questions about
- Connections between fragrance and place; fragrance and a loved one
- Hearts warmed by embrace, by memory, by voice


## * Handel: O lovely Peace (Ideas from Rebecca)

- Find the pictures of peace and war within the text. Find examples of how Handel uses the music to portray the text.
- Introduce the concept of the "pastoral" in music.
- Introduce Da capo form. What is so satisfying about ABA?
- Ornamentation on return of A section (some sample possibilities below)



## * Jackson Hill: In Winter's Keeping (Ideas from Margaret) <br> Why is this piece so scary looking? (Even without a costume!) <br> You can de-fang this "monster" with the right warm-up and score reading games!

- Questions and Ideas to Consider
- What can be at the heart of a piece of music other than a text or melody?
- What is the visual artistic equivalent of this musical style?
- Compare the role of an individual (section) in this work vs. a more traditional Western piece (fill in the blank).
- What does it mean to hear horizontally vs. vertically?
- Explore the idea of development in music. Is it needed? What are different ways it can happen? How do musical works that are more vertical "develop" differently than those that are more linear?
- Motive Hunt
- Sing it, notate it, find it! (This is a great time to look between voices and discuss augmentation or diminution!)
- Use these 2-4 note pitch patterns in a traditional warm-ups for range and technique work.
- Intervals Mi-Ti vs. Mi-La -Find them and keep a score card.
(Which is more prevalent? Does one sound more important? Why?)
- Inner Hearing Game

Begin this game with the entire choir (or just 2 groups). As they progress, add more groups, more solfege pitches and more difficulty. The basic idea is to create a game out of counting and coming in on various strong and weak beats in a couple given measures.
For example, Group 1 could sing on Mi, Group 2 on La, Group 3 on Ti, Group 4 on Do, etc...
Students count in their heads (no directing) and sing only on their designated beats.
Group 1: $\quad 1 \& 2 \& 3 \& 4 \& \quad 1 \& 2 \& 3 \& 4 \boldsymbol{\&}$
Group 2: $\quad 1 \& 2 \& 3 \& 4 \& 1 \& 2 \& 3 \boldsymbol{\&} 4 \&$
Group 3: $\quad 1 \& 2 \& 3 \& 4 \& 1 \& 2 \& 3 \& 4 \&$
Group 4: $\quad 1 \& 2 \& 3 \& 4 \& \quad 1 \& 2 \& 3 \& 4 \&$
This can get be made very simple or really hard!

## - Scale Freeze Tag

- Use a Mi to Mi Scale (in canon, in patterns, in place of traditional Do to Do scale work) and get comfy with the sound.
- As students are moving up and down the scale, point or tap to "freeze" students on a pitch. When they are tapped again, unfreeze and continue. Listen to the different clusters that are created for tuning non-traditional pitch groupings.


## * Orbán: Daemon Irrepit Callidus (Ideas from Randy)

- Knowing the text is fundamental to appreciating this piece. Not just vaguely what the text is about, but a literal translation. Here is a line by line translation:

Daemon irrepit callidus
Allicit cor honoribus
Daemon ponit fraudes, inter laudes, cantus, saltus
Quidquid amabile Daemon dat
Cor Jesus minus aestimat.
Caro venatur sensibus;
Sensus adhaeret dapibus;
Inescatur, impinguatur dilatatur.
Quidquid amabile caro dat,
Cor Jesus minus aestimat.
Adde mundorum milia
mille millena gaudia;
Cordis aestum non explebunt, non arcebunt.
Quidquid amabile Totum dat
Cor Jesus minus aestimat.

The devil sneaks expertly
Tempting the honorable heart;
He sets forth trickery amidst praise, song and dance.
However amiably the Demon acts,
It is still worth less than the heart of Jesus.
The flesh is tempted by sensuality;
Gluttony clings to our senses;
It overgrows, it encroaches, it stretches.
However appealing the flesh is,
It is still worth less than the heart of Jesus.
Though the universe may confer Thousands upon thousands of praises, The heart's desires they neither fulfill nor put out. However appealing the whole Universe is, It is still worth less than the heart of Jesus.

The piece is exciting, even without the text, but Orbán's imagination is appreciated much more when singers know what words they are singing, and have pondered the meaning of this piece. To get students more interested in the Latin text, constantly refer to specific Latin words and English cognates or derivatives (e.g. fraudes and fraud, trickery, etc.)

- A wide variety of allegro tempos are possible, from an insistent 120 to a frantic, witches' Sabbath 152 or even faster. There are a dozen of good recordings on YouTube and you will hear some of the vocal pitfalls of the piece by studying them.
- Warm-ups that actually help with the intervals in this piece:
- Minor scales with augmented second gaps ("gypsy minor") sung on solfège: La Ti Do Ri Mi Fa Si La
- Chromatic scales sung on alternating TAH and TEH, or on solfège syllables (start by adding chromatics slowly to a solfège ladder on the board). Do the chromatic scale both ascending and descending, and then split the choir and do them simultaneously (as in m. 30)
- Hocket (mm. 31-40). This is essentially a medieval device. So why does it appear here? Create rhythmic warm-ups that use hocket by splitting the choir into 2,3 , or 4 parts and sing staccato solfège scales by alternating pitches. This is excellent ear-training. Remember: "hocket" and "hiccup" are related words.
- Diminished harmonies: show students how to build a diminished triad with two minor thirds. Point out the tritone (diabolus in musica) that's created between the lowest and highest note. Create chord warm-ups of your own, which generate diminished triads, or tritones.
The Devil's Music: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk news/magazine/4952646.stm
So many difficult contemporary works are not accessible to high school singers, or they are so labor intensive that they are not worth the time and effort. This piece is challenging, but it is also well-crafted, imaginative, and shows the composer's genius. It's worth it!


## Some General Warm-up Ideas (From Rebecca)

## - Simple with Minor Alterations

Using any 5 or 6 tone pattern regularly will allow students to focus on various basic vocal concepts (tuning, openness, vowel, palate, posture, breath). Vary the patterns from day to day in major and minor tonalities. In young choirs, 3-5 tone patterns such as these allow the teacher to have "more" room to move and stay within all of the student's registers. Enjoy making up different combinations perhaps even have students "compose" warm-ups using 5 or fewer tones. I sometimes often it an ear exercise by having the students sing the solfège (after singing it a number of times on various vowels). Remember to move down as well as up. ©


## - Extra Time for Breath and Teaching

The most dramatic change that I have made in my group vocal teaching was to give extra time for the breath. I learned this from my voice teach, Mary Dillon Galbraith. Whoever said that all warm-up activities must be in $4 / 4$ time? Consider a slow modulation between exercises - it will allow students to release the breathing muscles and take a slower, deeper breath. It will allow you time for a short reminder without speaking over their singing. The extra time will take the tension out of the voice that is often created when the halfstep modulations are quick, and students try to "keep up" and grab quick breaths. Again, remember to vocalize both up and down $\odot$. Examples:


## - Solfège Exercises

By using daily solfège exercises, students not only be come familiar with the syllables themselves, they learn scales, intervals, and independence as different sections/groups can sing many of these in canon.

- Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do $\uparrow$ Re $\uparrow$ Do $\uparrow$ Ti La Sol Fa Mi Re Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do $\uparrow$ Re $\uparrow$ Do $\uparrow$ Ti La Sol Fa Mi Re Do A scale twice with RE at the top; sing in canon at the $3^{\text {rd }}$; vary articulation; work dissonance by singing slowly in canon at the $2^{\text {nd }}$.
- Do Do Re Do Do Re Mi Re Do Do Re Mi Fa Mi Re Do etc. Then down: $1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10$
 Add a clap on every Do $-\dot{-}$-- works great in canon.
- Disappearing Scale: Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do $\uparrow$ Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti_ Do Re Mi Fa Sol La_ _ etc. (leave space for missing notes). Then build it back: Do $\qquad$ Do Re $\qquad$ etc. Next Day do the same coming down the scale: Do $\uparrow$ Ti La Sol Fa Mi Re Do Do $\uparrow$ Ti La Sol Fa Mi Re _ etc. Works great in canon.
- Scales: Can learn individually then connect - Major, Natural Minor, Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do $\uparrow$ Ti La Sol Fa Mi Re Do Ti $\downarrow$
La $\downarrow$ Ti $\downarrow$ Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Sol Fa Mi Re Do Ti $\downarrow$ La $\downarrow$ Sol $\downarrow$
La $\downarrow$ Ti $\downarrow$ Do Re Mi Fa Si La Si Fa Mi Re Do Ti $\downarrow$ La $\downarrow$ Si $\downarrow$
La $\downarrow$ Ti $\downarrow$ Do Re Mi Fi Si La Sol Fa Mie Re Do Ti $\downarrow$ La $\downarrow$ Sol $\downarrow$ La_
- Intervals -I repeat the interval first with solfège, then with the interval name - up and down. This can be done in canon at the $3^{\text {rd }}$. Do Do Perfect Unison Do Re Major $2^{\text {nd }} \quad$ Do Mi Major $3^{\text {rd }} \quad$ etc. to: Do Do $\uparrow$ Perfect Octave Do $\uparrow$ Ti Minor $2^{\text {nd }} \quad$ Do $\uparrow$ La Minor 3rd $\quad$ Do $\uparrow$ Sol Perfect $4^{\text {th }} \quad$ etc. to: Do $\uparrow$ Do Perfect Octave.
- I also make up exercises singing the scales in 3rds, 4ths, and 5ths. I also make shortened exercises for 6ths, 7ths, and octaves. 3rds: Do Mi Re Fa Mi Sol Fa La So Ti La Do Ti Re Do $\uparrow$ _ Do $\uparrow$ La Ti Sol La Fa Sol Mi Fa Re Mi Do Re Ti $\downarrow$ Do_ 4ths: Do Fa Re Sol Mi La Fa Ti Sol Do $\uparrow$ La Re $\uparrow$ Ti Mi $\uparrow$ Do $\uparrow$ _ Do $\uparrow$ Sol Ti Fa La Mi Sol Re Fa Do Mi Ti $\downarrow$ Re La $\downarrow$ Do_


## - Tuning, Harmony, Placement, Vowels

I have used a particular exercise for many years for various purposes. The "base" to this exercise is to sing to a "ng" ring using various syllables (bing, ding, dong, zing). I find that this ring allows students to both hear better and place their sound forward. I use this in a descending 5 tone pattern (major or minor): Sol Fa Mi Re Do $\qquad$ , holding the last note.

- In less experienced choirs we hold the final tone and have everyone listen until we all find the pitch. It happens - really! We sometimes all make sure to hit the final note wrong and practice sliding to the right pitch.
- Gradually we move to the Tenor Section (or ${ }^{\text {st }}$ Soprano in SSA groups) sing Sol Fa Mi Fa Sol while everyone else sings the primary Sol Fa Mi Re Do and we practice tuning the $5{ }^{\text {th }}$. Sometimes we tune the "Do" or the "Sol" like a violin slide higher, then lower, then right on (thanks to Beverly Taylor for that technique!)
- Later, we add the Sopranos (or $2^{\text {nd }}$ Soprano in SSA groups) sing Sol Fa Sol Fa Mi, while the others do as explained above. We then have a 4-part chord in mixed groups. [Bass: Do; Tenor: Sol; Alto Do; Sop Mi]
- Over time, we open the held chord ringing in the "ng" to a vowel - working to keep the breath and placement forward - as well as working to match the vowels and keep the pitch ©
- Finally, we work several vowels. I use the two sets of 4 vowels used by Robert Fountain: oh oo you aw / ah ay ee eye [o, u, ju, "aw" / a e i aj] Sorry, I don't have all the right IPA symbols.


## - Breath, Consonants, and Language Practice

Of course, I do exercises that work the vocal registers high and low, and work on agility. But the one last simple exercise that I do is to get the breath working through the consonants. I use the pitches Do Re Do - and manipulate consonants and vowels: Fee Fah Fee; Kee Koh Kee; Glee, Gloh, Glee; Free Frah Free (with rolled r); etc. It is also a helpful exercise to work language sounds and words that you are working on in your repertoire -- or some standard Wisconsin dialect problem vowels like: How, Now, Not, Out, etc.

Questions? You can write to Rebecca at rwinnie@mtsd.k12.wi.us



2
Lay down your Crooks, and quit your Flocks,
To Bethlehem repair;
And let your wand'ring Steps be squar'd
By yonder shining Star.
Seek not in Courts or Palaces,
Nor Royal Curtains draw;
But search the Stable, see your God
Extended on the Straw.

3
Then learn from hence, ye rural Swains,
The Meekness of your God,
Who left the boundless Realms of Joy,
To Ransom you with Blood.
The Master of the Inn refus'd
A more commodius Place;
Ungnerous Soul of savage Mould,
And destitute of Grace.

## Welcome, Every Guest

Knoxville Harmony
Compiled by John B. Jackson Madisonville, Tennessee: A.W. Elder, 1838


Wel-come, wel-come, ev' - ry guest, Wel-come to our mu-sic feast:*


## When Jesus Wept

from The New England Psalm Singer (1770)
William Billings (1746-I800)


## Abendlied

(Evening Song)

Heinrich Heine
Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)


Mendelssohn - Abendlied - 2



## Die Nachtigall

(No. 4 from ''Sechs Lieder, Op. 59)
SATB a cappella
Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)
Soprano



## Heilig

Double Choir for SATB
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
(1809-1847)


SOURCE: Mendelssohn's Werke (1874-1877) Breitkopf \& Härtel, ed. Julius Rietz


# Elijah, 31. "O Rest in the Lord" 

## Alto Solo

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)


11


# Lift Thine Eyes <br> (from 'Elijah'") 

SSA unaccompanied
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
(1809-1847)


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He, Watching over Israel
From Elijah
Felix Mendelssohn

S.
A.
T.
B.


He , watch- ing
S.
A.
T.
B.






