

North Carolina Middle School Honors Chorus

November 2018

Music Notes

Congratulations for being selected into this prestigious choir! You were selected because of your immense talent, beautiful voice, musicianship and music reading skills! You should be very proud of yourself!

I selected some of my FAVORITE songs for you to perform at the North Carolina Music Educators Conference. I have written a few notes for you on each song. Please read through these as you are practicing the music.

I've included some YOUTUBE recordings that may be helpful to you as well.

I'm looking forward to seeing you next month and hearing your beautiful voices!

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Ritmo (Dan Davison)

- This will be our “Opener” for the concert. This song has great rhythmic energy and is an exciting song to perform.
- The text is PERFECT for our Choir! “Rhythm. Sing in joyful chorus. Lift your voices. Make harmony. We will sing with joy.”
- Because of all of the additional movement/sounds: claps, snaps, marching, knee taps, etc....this can be a challenge. Please have this almost memorized when you arrive for the first rehearsal.
- Clarifications:
 - P.6, m. 29: TB – we will MARCH (not use knee taps)
 - P.9, m. 51: We will use KNEE TAPS (not snaps)
 - P.15, m.93 & m.97: Altos – KNEE TAPS; Basses – MARCHING
 - P.16, m.101: T/B – MARCH
 - P.18, m. 117: MARCHING

“Ritmo” – recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rI2PfUb5-lg>

Oh Had I Jubal’s Lyre (G.F. Handel/arr. Mauldin)

- Handel is one of my favorite composers! I love this song!!!
- It is HARD and quite a challenge for Middle School voices, but if anyone can sing this – it would be YOU! Since this is the audition piece, I know that you will know this very well.
- Continue to practice the melisma (running notes):
 - S/A mm. 15 -22
 - S mm. 35-42
 - A mm. 40-42

“Jubal’s Lyre” – Recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6tABwJbH7I>

Kyrie (Imant Raminsh)

- This is one of my FAVORITE pieces! It is haunting and beautiful.
- In m.5, notice the spacing between the eighth notes in eleison. When you practice, think of the eighth note pairs representing teardrops.
- If you want to audition for the solo, have it memorized before you arrive for rehearsals.
- Tenors: m. 2 – 14; if this is too low, sing in a light voice up the octave or rest during this section.
- Tenors: m.17 – 26; if m. 17 is too low, enter on m.18 on “eleison”
- Tenors: m. 53 – 63; if this is too low, sing in a light voice up the octave or rest during this section.
- Tenors: M. 67: if m. 67 is too low, enter at m. 68 on “eleison”.
- Tenors: m.78-80; if the “c” is too low, sing it lightly up the octave.

“Kyrie” – Recording

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nm5Fd7weO6o&list=RDnm5Fd7weO6o&start_radio=1

Shady Grove (arr. Tom Shelton)

- I originally arranged this several years ago for treble voices. When they commissioned me to write a piece for this honor choir, I asked if I could “revoice” and “rearrange” Shady Grove - because I love it so much!
- You are going to love the bluegrass group that will accompany us!
- This piece is pretty straight forward. Watch the following 2 things:
 - M. 143 – SI please take the descant; SII sing the top note in the alto part. AI sing the middle note; A2 sing the bottom note.
 - M.55 -71: TB first time; SA on the repeat.
- There are lots of solos: If you want to audition for a solo – have this memorized before you arrive for rehearsals.
- Here is a breakdown of the solos:
 - M. 10 – 20: Bass solo
 - M. 21 – 32; Tenor/Bass duet
 - M. 96 -103; could be an alto or soprano soloist

- M. 120 – 134; 4 solos; could be any voice part

“Shady Grove” – Recording SSA Version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSaetMFCyZ>

No Time (arr. Susan Brumfield)

- There are no notes for this one – it’s straight forward. Just another of my favorite songs!

“No Time” – Recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbetXN3I4Ew>

Go Down Moses (arr. Tom Shelton)

- This is very rhythmic and fun to sing!
- BIG SOLO....This can be for any voice part. If you want to audition, have it memorized before you arrive.
- Unfortunately, it’s quite a roadmap, because of the way it’s laid out. I will clarify a few things:
 - MM. 26 – 34 V.1 = Sopranos/Altos
 - on the repeat of MM. 26 – 34 V2 = Tenors/Basses
 - Bottom of page 8 goes back to the Sign (DS) p.3, mm.18; this is the 3rd verse – SA sings the first line (“No more shall they in bondage toil”) TB sings the second line (“Let them come out of Egypt’s spoil”); then bottom of page 6 goes to the coda (p.9)
 - P.9 – This is simply an ostinato type “build on” section
 - Basses first
 - M. 69 – 1st tie: Basses and SA
 - M. 69 – 2nd time: Basses, SA, Tenors
 - M. 69 – 3rd time: Basses, SA, Tenors and Descant

“Go Down Moses” - Recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LWclWMinLU>