

# You're going to sing what?

## Suggestions for Festival Repertoire and a Positive Experience from the Adjudicators Prospective

Dr. Craig Zamer  
Tennessee Tech University

### **Repertoire: Where do I look?**

- Online resources—Youtube, J.W.Pepper
- ACDA Publications
- State Manuals (NYSSMA \$55.00)
- Conventions (ACDA & TNMEA)
- Colleagues

### **How do I choose?**

- Know your students (ability, divisi, range, tessitura)
- Choose repertoire that suits your choir's ability level
- Variety: tonality, tempo, mood, accompanied/unaccompanied.  
(your choices change depending on a set of two or three pieces.)
- Know how long your pieces are—Be wary of short pieces!!!! (try avoid less than two minutes)
- Standards Rep. is "standard" for a reason and shouldn't be avoided in this situation
- Accompanied vs. a capella (refer to the second point in this section)

### **What can I do to get better scores? What Separates a "I" from a "II"?**

- Know the music beyond the "learned note level". Dynamics, phrasing, syllabic stress, nuance. Don't make yourself obsolete as the conductor!!!! (No Autopilot) Allow your students to have a say in some of the musical choices.
- If you select a piece in a language; make sure you have researched and taught pronunciation thoroughly. (use teachers in your school/cross-curricular)
- Practice performing—facial expression, focus, body involvement, sense of knowledge in what they are singing about, focus with the entire ensemble.
- Be careful of experimentation with tempos (Renaissance music, spirituals). This can be a risk.
- Invite a colleague to listen and mock adjudicate before festival (reinforcement of what you have been saying, new perspectives as well.)
- Leave the learning/stretching pieces for concerts not adjudication unless you are willing to have them judged on a different level.
- Remind students that adjudication is only a snapshot of what they sounded like on a particular day. The adjudicator has no idea of the progress they have made throughout the year and it should NOT be the sole determination of their ability.

### **Suggested Repertoire:**

#### **High School Mixed (SATB):**

With a Voice of Singing...Martin Shaw—accompanied  
The Ground...Ola Gjeilo (Walton)—accompanied  
Three Madrigals...Emma Lou Deimer—accompanied  
Ave Maria...William Byrd—A Capella  
Ave Verum Corpus...William Byrd—A Capella  
If ye Love me...Thomas Tallis—A Capella  
Gaelic Blessing...John Rutter—Accompanied  
Psallite...Praetorius—A Capella  
Fostiana...Randall Thompson—Accompanied  
You Shall Have a Song (From Peaceable Kingdom)...Randall Thompson 8 part—A capella  
If Music Be the Food of Love...David Dikau—accompanied  
Earth Song...Frank Ticheli—a capella  
A Farewell...Molly James  
Hark I hear the harps eternal...Parker/Shaw  
Zions Walls...Copeland—accompanied

#### **High School Women (SSA):**

Exaudi Laudate...Beverly Patton (Roger Dean Publishing)—Accompanied (piano challenge)  
La Paloma (The Dove)...arr. Cristian Grases (Walton)—Accompanied  
Will There Really Be a Morning...Craig Hella Johnson—Accompanied  
Cantique, de Jean Racine...Faure/Rutter  
Barter...Rene Clausen  
In the Time of Sliver Rain...Snyder  
How Can I keep from singing...Walker  
Weep No More...Childs  
Out of the Morning...Daniel Hall  
Alleluia...Thompson  
This little Babe...Britten  
Hodie...John Leavitt  
I Thank you God...Gwyneth Walker  
Lake Isle of Innisfree...Elenor Daley  
Canticle of Mary...Ames  
What Sweeter Music...Daley  
There is no rose...Stroope  
Lux Aeterna...Stroope  
Magnificat...Stroope  
Psalm 23...Stroope  
Living in a holy city...Hatfield

#### **High School Men(TTBB):**

Star of the County Down...William Hunt (Alliance)—Accompanied  
Stouthearted Men...Arr. Walter Scotson (Warner Bros.)—Accompanied  
Think on me...Arr. Victor Johnson (Heritage)—Accompanied  
Swing Down Chariot...Andre Thomas (Heritage)—A cappella

**Middle School Mixed:**

Menagerie of Songs...Carolyn Jennings (Schirmer)—Accompanied (Unison, two and three part)  
Je le vois dirai!...Pierre Certon (CPDL) #09205 (SATB)  
Alleluia, Alleluia...Amy Bernon (Heritage)—A Capella (SATB)  
Elijah Rock...Roger Emerson—3 part  
Salute Uni Genito—Praetorius—3 part  
Climbing up the mountain...Rollo Dilworth—3 part  
Shine on Me...Rollo Dilworth—3 part  
Artza Alinu—Earl Larentz—2 part  
The River Sleeps Beneath the Sky...Lightfoot  
Someone told the wild geese...Lightfoot  
Come and Sing...Laou  
The song that nature sings...Ruth E. Schram  
Keep your lamps...Andre Thomas

**Middle School Treble:**

Be Simple Little Children...Bob Chilcott (Boosey)—Accompanied (SSA)  
Sound the Trumpet...Henry Purcell (CPDL)—Accompanied (Two part) #13351  
The Drinking Gourd...Andre Thomas (Heritage)—Accompanied (SA)  
The path to the moon...Eric Thieman—2 part  
Chocolate...Kirby Shaw—2 part  
Siyahamba...Doreen Rao  
Old Joe Clark...Kirby Shaw—2part  
This old man...Gilpin—Unison

**Middle School Men:**

Cantate Domino...Laura Farnell (Hal Leonard)—Accompanied (TTB)  
Chariot Spiritual...Donald Moore (Brilee)—Accompanied (TB)  
To Work Upon the Railway...Earlene Rentz (Heritage)—Accompanied (TTB)  
Charlottetown Donald Moore (Brilee)—Accompanied (TB)  
Yellow Bird...Dan Davidson—Accompanied (TB)  
We're the men...Mark Burroughs (TB)

**Elementary Suggestions:**

Menagerie of Songs...Carolyn Jennings (Schirmer)—Accompanied (Unison, two and three part)  
Peace on Earth...and lots of little crickets... Paul Carey (Walton)—Accompanied/ a capella (2 part)  
Nursery Songs for Young Choirs...Bisbee, B. (Hal Leonard)—Accompanied (Unison)