

## Rehearsal Notes for the SD Elementary Honor Choir

Please be forgiving as you listen to the accompaniment, singing of parts, and the choral examples. I consider myself a much better teacher than a performer! The choirs that you will hear are recordings from the International Music Camp at the Peace Gardens in ND/Manitoba throughout the past several years. These students come, never having sung this music before or with each other for that matter, and in five days prepare and perform it in concert. Not perfect, but it might help give you some idea of style, pronunciation, etc. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### 1. Cantate Domino

Please pronounce the Latin as indicated phonetically in the music. I prefer more of an “oh” than “aw” (Domino), but be especially mindful that there are no double vowels/diphthongs in Latin, so do not close the “oh” to an “ooh” as we would in English. The other vowel that is often troublesome is the “eh” in “cantate” and “alleluia”. Please work carefully to keep the “eh” sound rather than “ay”.

The first section should be light and bouncy in style, changing to much more smoothly on pp 4-5. Pay attention to dynamics as much as possible. Note the performance notes on the back page of the music.

### 2. Agnus Dei

The Latin for this will be as follows:

Ahnyoos Dehee kwee tohlees pehkahtah moondee  
Meesehrehreh nohbees

Please exaggerate the rise and fall within each phrase through the use of dynamics and by leaning on the consonants of important words (usually beat one or three). Both parts I and II will sing from the beginning through page 5. These are two partner songs that fit together beautifully. Then they will divide into two groups. Each group will divide again at the very end for the 4-part chord. If anyone has a beautiful “angelic” soloist, it would be lovely to have a very small ensemble the first part once through before the entire choir begins.

### 3. Life Has Loveliness to Sell

This is probably the most difficult piece of music that I selected. The choir will be divided into 3 parts as noted in the music. On page 5 please have part 2 sing the low note in measure 18; same on page 9 measure 42. I would like to incorporate a great deal of rubato with the give and take of the tempo within the piece. When a long “I” occurs, as in “life” and “fire”, hold the “ah” sound as long as possible. The word “beautiful” will be “bewtihful”. No “r” in the word “wonder”; more like “wuhduh”. LOTS of consonants, both beginning and ending.

### 4. The Tailor of Gloucester

This will be very British in nature. Think of singing with a very snooty, British accent ☺ The nonsense syllables will be pronounced “hi (long “I” sound) diddle uhm come feedle”. I will add some actions during the rehearsal. Have fun with this one!

### 5. The Piper

This will be a very conversational song, so each part sings as written. The first section is very happy and lilting in nature, changing completely on page 8, then ending as it began. This one just seems to sing itself.

### 6. Shine on Me

This is basically a three-part partner song. Everyone sings at the beginning. Divide into two equal groups (not as it says in the music) in measure 23. Half the choir on part I and half the choir on part II. We will NOT sing the three pick-up notes into measure 40. At that point, half of the part I group will sing the top part, while the other half of part I sings the middle part. Half of the part II group will sing the middle part, while the other half of part II sings the lowest part. This way the melody, which is the middle part has the most voices, so the balance will be better. Make sense??

Pronunciation will focus on keeping the “ah” part of the long “I” vowel throughout each word on which it occurs (shine, I, light). Also keep the “ah” sound throughout the word “house”. No “r” on “wonder” (wuhnduh). Do not breathe after “lighthouse”, but put a very tiny “s” at the beginning of “will”. There will be a huge slowing down before measure 40. The piano will give the choir the modulation into the new key signature. On page 5 measure 26, jump into the word following the rest in both parts. Part II should be very light and almost percussive throughout this section.