

WHAT'S IN YOUR FOLDER?

As festival time rolls around, we all start to think: "I wonder what literature other choir directors have chosen to help shape the choirs they teach?" I have had the pleasure of going around the state this past month to clinic other fine choirs and have been able to answer that question on a personal level. What I mostly witnessed was APPROPRIATE literature for the group that was performing. All too often, publishers attempt to sell us what is "hot" and "new." If we fall into that trap, we essentially are making our choirs fit the literature, instead of making the literature fit the choir! PLEASE comb through many pieces before you decide what is great for your choirs. I make it a point to peruse at least 1000 octavos (for each choir I teach) to find the perfect literature for festival and/or our concert. Sometimes, I find that the "correct fit" was under my nose the entire time! If you treat this as a treasure hunt of sorts, it becomes quite fun! After heavy deliberating, here is what I chose for my choirs this year: (I hope you enjoy them as much as I have had teaching them this semester!)

Lower School Choir (4th/5th grade):

"I never saw a moor" from Two Poems of Emily Dickinson by Neil Ginsberg (Santa Barbara Music Pub.)

"Dowidzenia" by Andrea Schafer (World Music Press)

"Jamais On N'a Vu" (Have You Ever Seen?) by Judith Herrington/Sara Glick (Pavane Publishing)

Middle School Choir (6th/7th/8th grade):

"Yanaway Heyona" arr. Brian Tate (Pavane Publishing)

"Tancuj, Tancuj" (Dance and Turn) arr. Carolyn Jennings (Neil A. Kjos Music Company)

"Gentle Annie" Stephen Foster/ arr. Dennis Eliot (Beckenhorst Press, Inc.)

"Hey, for the Dancing!" Lajos Bardos/ed. Rod Walker (Shawnee Press, Inc.)

Upper School Choir (9th-12th grade):

"Margoton va t'a l'iau" Francis Poulenc (Salabert Editions)

"Hear My Prayer, O Lord" Henry Purcell/ ed. John Rutter (Oxford University Press)

"When the foeman bears his steel" from *The Pirates of Penzance* (G. Schirmer, Inc.)

"OffKey" (Upper School Vocal Jazz Ensemble)

"Save the Bones for Henry Jones" arr. Kirby Shaw (Hal Leonard)

"My Funny Valentine" from *Babes in Arms* by Rodgers/Hart arr. Roger Emerson

"Blue Skies" by Irving Belin/ arr. Roger Emerson