

From the desk of Meredith Hotard, LA ACDA R&S Chair for Boychoirs

Here are five great pieces appropriate for unchanged voices. All are fairly simple, but exciting and challenging enough to motivate.

1. This Little Light of Mine (arr. Patterson), published by Choristers Guild - 2 part This arrangement is a lot of fun. It starts with a slow, reflective solo, and then ups the tempo. The ranges are good for young singers.
2. Jubilate Deo (Michael Praetorius, arr. Rao), Boosey & Hawkes - 2 - 4 part canon This is a 2 to 4 part canon, written in a very good range for boy sopranos. It's also a very short canon, where each phrase is melodically unique, so that makes it good for young singers who are beginning to master canons and harmony. Rao's teaching suggestions and editorial markings are very helpful.
3. Tutira Mai (We Stand as One) (Henry Leck/arr. Martin), Hal Leonard Corporation - 2 part This is a very sing-able (easy to learn with Solfeggio!), upbeat song about unity sung in the Maori language. There are hand motions and stomps throughout the piece, which are based on traditional dance steps, so they don't come across as cheesy in performance. The score includes historical information about the song and Maori culture.
4. The Lion Sleeps Tonight (arr. Jeff Funk), Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. - 2 part I use this arrangement with my 6th grade boys every year, and it's always one of their favorite songs. It's simple to learn, and gets them singing in harmony easily. The range is very appropriate for this age group, and there is a part for a djembe. You can also add a few shakers and solos if you want.
5. Kusimama (Stand Tall) (Jim Papoulis), Boosey & Hawkes- SA This is an upbeat song with text in Swahili and English. There are stomps and claps, spoken/shouted sections, and percussion parts. The refrain is the same every time, with a harmony part that is more of a descant, and each verse is unique. The lyrics are about standing tall and proud, even if you are "just" a kid. This is also a favorite with the 6th grade boys every year that I program it.