

Five for the Folder

Meredith Hotard

R&S Chair - Boychoirs

Here are five good pieces appropriate for unchanged voices, including some holiday pieces.

1. *Dormi, Dormi* - (Italian carol, arr. Goetze), published by Boosey and Hawkes - This is a simple unison piece that alternates between a lyrical melody in 2/4 and a bell-like "fa la la" section in 6/8. The range is from treble clef F to D, so it's right in that sweet spot for most treble boys' voices. Teaching opportunities include the concept of time signature changes, sequence, and Italianate vowels.
2. *Fairest Lady* (Page), published by Boosey and Hawkes - My boychoirs love this piece. It's very singable, and has a very fun accompaniment. A cool feature of the piece is that the melody is a retrograde inversion on London Bridges Falling Down. There is an option to partner melodies in the second half of the song.
3. *Trolls* (Crawley), published by Leslie Music Supply - This is a song about trolls and what to do if you come upon them. The lyrics are cute but not cheesy. It is a good piece for teaching the importance of dynamics, diction, and tempo for storytelling through choral music.
4. *Zat You, Santa Claus?* (Fox, arr. Shaw), published by Alfred Music - This is a fun, jazzy piece, available in multiple voicings. My choirs have sung the 2 part version, and it is always a student and audience favorite. While there are not instrumental parts provided, we added a jazz clarinet, which made it even more exciting.
5. *Gaudeamus Hodie* (Moore), published Alfred Music - This Latin piece can be adapted for Christmas or any other celebration. Secular options are provided in the lyrics. This piece works well for beginning part singing. There is a descant, and simple harmonies. There are also parts for claves, shakers, and congas.