

2011 All-East Middle School Honors Chorus

Bulletin #1

Directors,

All-East this year is at Abba's House (First Baptist Church of Hixson) on Hixson Pike, just north of Highway 153. Director for the choir this year is Dr. Patrick Freer from Georgia State University. A brief biography of Dr. Freer is included at the end of this bulletin.

For the middle school choir this year, the rehearsals will start at 1:00 on Friday afternoon, with a registration time immediately preceding that. This is a change from years past. Please make arrangements to be in Hixson at that time, including getting approval for your students to miss school for at least part of that day. We will then rehearse most of the day Saturday, starting at 8:00 and running until 1:15, with a short lunch break included in that time. The concert will then start at 2:00.

Online registration is set to run October 10-20. Teachers are allowed to send up to 12 students to this event. Please make every effort to register a balanced group of up to 4 sopranos, 4 altos, and 4 tenors/baritones. (I would refer to "balanced" as having no more than a 1-student discrepancy between parts; for example, I plan to send a group of 2-2-1. Obviously, we would make exceptions for all-male or all-female schools.) Registration will be \$16 per student - \$10 for the clinic and \$6 for the rehearsal CD, which will be sent once you have registered.

A list of hotels in the area can be found at http://etva.org/AE_Hotels.aspx. Please note that the Hixson hotels are all within 2 miles of the site; the Shallowford-area hotels are a few miles further out.

We will be setting up a way to get lunch brought in for the students at a small cost. More information about this will be sent later.

If you have further questions and/or suggestions, feel free to contact Sam Duggins, Middle School Choir Chair, at sam_duggins@yahoo.com.

Repertoire

A full repertoire list and ordering information can be found at http://etva.org/AE_repertoire.aspx.

We have been notified that the "Dona Nobis Pacem" is now out of print. We have talked with the publisher and are working out a way to still get copies of the music. We will need a count of how many

we will need, so please let us know how many of you still need this music and how many scores you will need. This selection will be included on the rehearsal CD.

Please note that there are several changes Dr. Freer has asked us to make to “The Cuckoo”. Please make the note/part changes (listed below) in your scores and teach these to your students. They should appear that way on the CD.

Notes about repertoire, as given by Dr. Freer:

The Cuckoo (arr. Robert Hugh)

A. Divisi parts should be handled as follows:

Descant: only a few soprano voices

A and A2: equal split of alto voices (see note below for measure 30)

B. Change the pitches in the following measures:

- 9 - SAB voices: change "C#" to an "E"
- 17 - SB voices: change "C#" to an "E"
- 19, 23, 27, 31, 35 - Baritones (part B): change "low C#" to an "E"
- 30 through 38: Part B2 should be sung only by those singing A2 (an octave higher than notated)
- 33, 37 - A2 voices (singing Part B2): change "C#" to an "E"
- 47 - SAB voices: change "D" to an "F"

Duond Akuru (Rollo Dilworth)

a. I think the marked tempo is much too fast. We will take it at 80 bpm. It should sound like “smooth jazz.” (*This may appear faster on your CD, so make your students aware that they need to be prepared to slow it down at the event.*)

b. Baritone – take it easy with the repeated motif beginning at m. 7; like a lullaby, not like a war cry!

c. All – make sure “Duond” is pronounced “Dwahnd,” with a really round and beautiful “ah” vowel.

d. Soprano and Alto – make sure the “ku” and “ru” syllables are true “ooh” vowels in the opening pages.

e. The challenge part is from mm. 36 to 45. Notice the pronunciation guide on the inside cover.

f. Tenors may sing the low C up an octave in m. 42.

g. We will sing mm. 46 to 53 at the marked forte dynamic, possibly with a sustained crescendo, ending with the baritone relaxing a bit in measure 54.

h. Be careful with the YouTube videos on this one (you’ll see some very interesting conducting “moves” if you hunt around a bit!). Here’s a well-sung performance, but notice the problems with the instruments and counting, particularly in the introduction and in the critical 2/4 meter at m. 45:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ysi6tPxRVgg>

Been Down Into the Sea (arr. Nick Page)

NOTE FOR TEACHERS: There is an OK recording of a mostly-treble choir singing this on YouTube; note that there are a few differences between the score and what these folks are singing:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iz7Yn9JbE_0

Our Conductor

Patrick K. Freer is associate professor of choral music education at Georgia State University in Atlanta, where he currently conducts the Georgia State University Men's Chorus. He holds degrees from Westminster Choir College and Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Freer is a frequent guest conductor for all-state choruses and has made over 70 presentations at regional, national and international conferences. He has guest conducted or presented in 31 states, Canada, Finland, Germany, Greece and Japan. He conducts annual Memorial Day concerts in Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall, with the forthcoming 2011 program featuring Gwyneth Walker's New Millennium Suite.

Dr. Freer also serves as academic editor and chair of the editorial board for Music Educators Journal, the most widely circulated music education journal in the world. His recent books are Getting Started with Middle School Chorus (2nd Edition) and TIPS: The First Weeks of Middle School Chorus. Dr. Freer is the author of the critically acclaimed DVD series Success for Adolescent Singers and his articles are published in most of the field's leading national and international journals, including the Choral Journal, International Journal of Music Education, Journal of Music Teacher Education, Music Education Research, Music Educators Journal, Philosophy of Music Education Review, Research Studies in Music Education, Southwestern Musician, Teaching Artist Journal and UPDATE: Applications of Research in Music Education.