

Bravo Children's Choir

By Dianne Braymen, Children Choir R&S Chair

Summertime is a time for relaxing, going to workshops and ICDA summer symposium, cleaning up the music room, sorting through the files and storage, attending concerts and operas and going through fresh new music. I have found the following pieces appealing and hopefully one or two will become part of your repertoire also.

The Unsuitable Suitor

Margaret King

Unison -

Boosey & Hawkes 48019114

Piano Accompaniment

This octavo is a playful little song about a two-toed he-toad's love for a three-toed she-toad. It is a delightful piece that is in major and mixolydian tonalities, mixed meter and a rollicking piano accompaniment that all combine to make this a very challenging but rewarding piece.

Joy in My Heart

Arranged by Rollo Dilworth

2-part

Hal Leonard 08551899

Piano Accompaniment

"Joy in My Heart" is a choral celebration of joy that comes from believing in oneself. The chorus is an adaptation of "I've Got That Joy, Joy, Joy," written in the style of a "jubilee". Jubilees have their roots in the African American spiritual tradition and are often characterized by a moderate to fast tempo, short vocal phrasing, and major tonality. The verse begins with a quote from a famous civil rights freedom song "Ain't Gon' Let Nobody Turn Me Round." The octavo is written in 6/8 meter.

Sing a Joyful Song

Emily Crocker

SSA

Hal Leonard 08744938

Piano accompaniment/ percussion

This piece is filled with mixed meter jumping constantly back and forth from 7/8 to 2/4 to 4/4 to 6/4 meter. It begins in the Key of D and then switches to E flat. Perfect for festival use, this rhythmic setting of Psalm texts is sure to please singers and listeners. A great addition to your repertoire!

The Piper

Mary Goetze
2-part treble
Boosey & Hawkes 48019089
Accapella / Piccolo

“The Piper” is a piece with the text coming from “Song of Innocence” by William Blake. The tempo is quarter note = 84 and 2/4 meter. It is a piece that challenges students to sing independently when three different parts have different rhythms made up mostly of eighth and sixteenth notes. The piece is complete with the addition of the piccolo playing introduction, interludes, and sometimes playing a descant to the choir’s singing.

The Crawdad Song

Arranged by Cristi Cary Miller
2-part treble voices
Hal Leonard 08551862
Piano accompaniment

The American South folk song is written in the form of a blues piece with three repeating lines and one answering line with a tag. In the middle of the octavo three rhythmic ostinatos are spoken, layering in one part at a time and then added to the melody line. Adding unpitched percussion instruments to accompany each part is suggested also. A favorite with the students.

How Can I Keep From Singing?

Rev. Robert Lowrey
Arranged by Emily Crocker
SSA
Boosey & Hawkes OCTB1903
Accapella

The octavo is in F Major and 3/8 meter. Emily Crocker’s arrangement of the old hymn begins in unison singing, then altos singing melody with the other two parts singing harmony on loo, then break into 3-part singing. The piece continues on with all voices singing in unison again and finish in 3-part singing. The text is rich – “My Life flows on in endless song above earth’s lamentation. I hear the real, through far off hymn that hails a new creation. No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I’m clinging. It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?” There is no accompaniment so it challenges the students to listen for blend and pitch.