

Bravo! Submissions

Bass Clef Choir R&S - Kelly Truax

This list of pieces continues my mission to champion music that can be used with younger or less experienced men's choirs (think middle school or 9th/10th men's groups.) If you would like more information about any of the pieces, let me know!

1. A Cowboy's Life

Dan Davison

TTB or TB Voices with Piano - BriLee Music #BL914

Dan Davison is a composer who *REALLY* knows how to write for middle-school aged men. He knows that young men do better when the ranges are narrow . . . and that having a variety of harmonic ranges helps young men find a place that suits their changing voice more comfortably. This original cowboy song will remind you of "Rawhide" and will catch the imaginations of your young male singers.

2. Battle Cry of Freedom

John Ness Beck

TTB Choir with piano - Heritage Music Press #15/3262H

This new arrangement of an existing piece sits in the sweet spot for what young men's voices do well. The harmony is repetitious and predictable in a way that helps the singer feel powerful. The melody spans a large range, but is sung in unison, so the guys are supporting each other through the higher and lower notes.

3. Dominus Vobiscum

Jacob Narverud

TBB Voices *a cappella* - Carl Fischer #CM9445

Jacob Narverud has composed a piece that manages to sound both "of a time" (the opening is free chant) and "now" (you hear modern harmonies in the main part of the piece.) The writing is very smart; Narverud creates a piece that feels and sounds sophisticated and lush while never becoming more difficult than a younger choir could handle. Better suited for younger high school men, this piece feels substantial and is quite lovely.

4. Break of Day

John Michael Trotta

T(B)B choir, piano & optional oboe - Carl Fischer #CM9438

This is a beautiful piece! While it could be sung by middle school men (provided they have the vocal range to suit the bass part) the text is better suited to high school men (the poem is by John Donne and speaks of parting with a loved one.) The piece is very appealing and passionate and would make a less experienced choir sound full and important.

5. Hallelujah

Leonard Cohen - arr. Ethan Sperry

TTBB div. *a cappella* - Hal Leonard #00154366

This song is extremely appealing to singers of all ages, and Ethan Sperry has created a fantastic arrangement for confident men's groups. Like Sperry's other arrangements, this one is rich and full, but the harmonies are NOT difficult, and the writing is such that groups with good music readers should be able to put this piece together. If you have a men's 12-tet (or larger — there are 10 parts at the end) that are looking for a great arrangement of this song, this is it.