

Bravo! Submissions

Bass Clef Choir R&S - Kelly Truax

For my first *Bravo!* I am offering several pieces that have worked well for my young men's choirs (I teach 7th, 8th and 9th men's choir.) Hopefully you'll find something you can try with your guys!

A YouTube link is included for each piece. If you are viewing this article electronically, you can click to listen.

Let's start with a pair of Czech songs that I love and think everyone should try. *Do not let the language scare you!* These pieces are great, and your men will enjoy singing them. Plus — pronunciation cds are available, and the music includes a detailed pronunciation guide.

1. Jede Sedlak

Jaroslav Krcek

A cappella TTBB Choir - Alliance Publications, Inc #AP-10389

Jede Sedlak is playful, jolly and great fun to sing; my 9th grade men truly loved this song. We learned the pitches on Solfege and added the Czech later (not gonna lie . . . the language *was* challenging, but it was worth it!) Best suited for HS (and older) choirs.

Here is a recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYItln8LjoU>

2. Majko, majko zelena

Zdenek Lukas

TTBB Male Chorus with Violin - Alliance Publications, Inc #AP-10476

Majko is more challenging than *Jede* . . . but is still a good fit for HS men (and older groups.) This joyous piece is a perfect fit for applying both Solfege and Takadimi syllables. The violin part is fast and moderately difficult; you'll need a player with some fire!

Here is a recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ml3XFBin7xs&index=11&list=PL2Ots6Yol_tr1mDtmop9OuhGnDeK5J7_u

3. Salaam Aleikum

Trad. African Folk Song - arr. Laura Farnell

Flexible Voicing - T or TB or TT or TTB with optional keyboard and percussion. Carl Fischer #CM9246

Laura Farnell is one of my favorite composers for young men's choir. She really understands their ranges and how to showcase what they can do well.

Except for the title, this piece is in English. The arrangement is flexible; you can perform as many of the parts as suits your choir. The ranges are high enough to work for unchanged voices, and you can double at the octave to suit those who have dropped low. A very good piece for 7th and 8th graders.

Here is a recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqFmNehCqRo>

4. Dereva Ni Mungu

Jake Runestad

TB choir, piano & percussion - JR Music #JR0032-TB

This piece was used at Wartburg College's *Real Men Sing!* festival this past fall, and my guys loved it. It has a cool groove, is mostly in English, and has a sacred text. The tenor range sits a little low for unchanged voices, but is a good fit for guys who are moving into the actual tenor range (it sits between G below middle C and E above. The bass part sits C-C.) A great fit for 7th and 8th graders.

To purchase this piece, you will need to buy directly from Jake's website: jakerunestad.com

Here is a recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWVpEarddAo>

5. I Dreamed of Rain

Jan Garrett, arr. Larry Nickel
TTBB with piano - Cypress Choral Music #CP 1211

Choral composer, Larry Nickel, was captivated by the beautiful simplicity of Jan's song and set it for choir with approachable, yet rich, harmonies. The ranges are best suited for HS men, and the harmonies are within reach of a capable freshman/sophomore group. This is a lovely ballad that your men will enjoy singing!

Here is a recording (it is the SATB version; I could not find the TTBB): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgDIBAcELLA>

And one piece for those who direct advanced men's ensembles —

6. The Parting Glass

Trad. Irish text/music by Richard Burchard
TTTBBB Chorus with Solo Voices, unaccompanied - National Music Publishers #NM1020

This Irish tune is often sung at the end of a gathering of friends. The piece would make a lovely encore for an advanced male ensemble.

Solo lines are accompanied by 6-part, lush, a cappella chords. Ranges are extreme for bass 3 (yes, it has a bass 3! Lots of low D and E) and tenor 1 (lots of high A, B and C#.) The harmony parts are diatonic and, although close, always remain pretty and cover a wide range on the piano.

Here is a recording (*this is NOT the same arrangement*, but will give you a taste of the melody and a cappella style): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hMdoGet2A8>