

## “Tried & True” Choral Literature for the Developing Men’s Choir

*Ryan A. Person, ICDA Men’s Choirs Repertoire & Standards, July 2009*

### Upbeat Contemporary Pieces in English

<i>A Trilogy of Knighthood</i>	Julie Gardner Bray	TTB, piano	Heritage	15/1315H	Secular	English	Great for limited voice ranges, wonderful song for introducing TTB singing, consists of three short songs, great text, the guys love it!
<i>Come Travel With Me</i>	Scott Farthing	TTB, piano	Walton	HL08501432	Secular	English	A great concert opener for your young men! Very singable ranges for the changed and unchanged voice.
<i>Let All Men Sing</i>	Keith Christopher	TTBB, piano	Hal Leonard	8703182	Secular	English	Upbeat, repetitive and is an easy learner, tight harmonies in places
<i>O Magnify the Lord</i>	Dale Grotenhuis	TTBB, piano	Kjos	CH-125	Sacred	English	A fantastic piece that is suitable for high school men. A cappella section in the middle which requires a B2 low-E. A great contest/festival selection.
<i>Shout for Joy</i>	Dan Davison	TTB, piano			Secular	English	A nice concert opener with singable ranges!

### Upbeat Contemporary Pieces in Latin

<i>Cantate Domino</i>	Laura Farnell	TTB, a cappella	Hal Leonard	8747425	Sacred	Latin/ English	Great for junior high/young high school singers, incorporates both Latin and English. Laura Farnell writes awesome arrangements for the developing voice!
<i>Exsultate Justi in domino</i>	Brant Adams	TTBB, piano	Santa Barbara	SBMP 173	Sacred	Latin	Great piece! An effective teaching tool, a great introduction to Latin, driving beat, the guys love it!
<i>Gloria</i>	Dan Davison	TB, piano	Walton Music	WLG121	Sacred	Latin	Intended for younger singers (junior high), great introduction to Latin, quite simple yet effective
<i>Gloria!</i>	Keith Christopher	TTBB, piano	Belwin	SVM04073	Sacred	Latin	An undiscovered gem! Primarily homophonic singing, repetitive text, a great contest selection for high school men, requires a B2 low F
<i>Jubilate Deo!</i>	Laura Farnell	TTB, piano	Hal Leonard	8745906	Sacred	Latin	Very rhythmic, switches between 5/8 and 2/4 for much of the piece, comfortable ranges for all voices

### Pre-20<sup>th</sup> Century Pieces

<i>Down Among the Dead Men</i>	Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams	TTBB, a cappella	E.C. Schimmer		Secular	English	An old English air, moves along quickly, a fun song to sing and perform
<i>Four German Folk Songs</i>	Arr. Dale Grotenhuis	TTBB, piano (four hands)	National	NMP297	Secular	German/English	Includes four songs in German and English, first two are accompanied, last two are unaccompanied, fun pieces for teaching a more challenging language
<i>Hunter's Chorus</i>	Carl Maria von Weber, ed. Mead	TTBB, piano	G. Schimmer	HL50315740	Secular	German or English	Up-tempo with a tougher German text, from <i>Der Freischütz</i>
<i>With Voices Rejoicing</i>	W. A. Mozart	TTBB, piano	E.C. Schimmer	2183	Secular	English	From <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> , very short piece with block chords, an easy note learner and great introduction to four-part singing
<i>Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts</i>	Saint-Saens – arr. Roger Emerson	TTBB, piano	Hal Leonard	8596738	Sacred	Latin	Up-tempo with easy block chords, easy learner, a great way to incorporate classic composers into your repertoire

### Pieces at a Slower Tempo

<i>Adoramus Te</i>	G. P. Palestrina	TTBB, a cappella	Bourne	100637	Sacred	Latin	There are not many good men's arrangements of Palestrina around, are there? This is not overly difficult but is intended for high school singers. It is performed at a slow tempo and requires significant musical phrasing.
<i>Awakening, The</i>	Joseph Martin	TTBB, piano	Shawnee	C 0286	Either	English	The men's voicing of this particular arrangement is quite stunning! Allows for both lyric phrasing and rip-roaring fortes
<i>Down By the Salley Gardens</i>	Douglas E. Wagner	TBB, piano	Heritage	15/2226H	Secular	English	A great arrangement of this traditional Irish tune, singable ranges for all voice parts, very nice and easy harmonies
<i>For the Fallen</i>	Mike Sammes	TTBB, piano	Pavane	ECS 214	Secular	English	A moving piece with a great text referring to our fallen soldiers, a quick easy learner that could be used in a variety of different settings
<i>Who Are the Brave?</i>	Joseph Martin	TTB, piano	Hal Leonard	8703182	Secular	English	A tribute to those who have served in battle, rather simple three-part harmonies but requires a well-produced sound for true effectiveness, young men love singing this piece

### American Music

<i>Colorado Trail</i>	Arr. Donald Moore	TTB, piano	Brilee	BL162	Secular	English	A traditional folk song your men will enjoy, easy note learning; a great teaching tool for developing breath and long phrasing
<i>Down in the Valley</i>	Arr. George Mead	TTBB, piano	Galaxy	1.1716.1	Secular	English	A classic which is probably in most of your high school choral libraries, a slower piece which is great for contest, an easy piece to sing and is extremely effective with the guys
<i>O Captain! My Captain!</i>	John Leavitt	TTBB, piano	Hal Leonard	8740030	Secular	English	Well-written harmonies and a piece men always enjoy singing! Upbeat and manly!
<i>Salute to America</i>	Mark Hayes	TTBB, piano	Heritage/ Lorenz	1512342H- 3	Secular	English	A medley of patriotic songs including: You're a Grand Old Flag, Yankee Doodle Dandy, America the Beautiful, The Star Spangled Banner
<i>Vive L'Amour</i>	Shaw/Parker	TTBB, a cappella	Pavane	ECS 214	Secular	English	A moving piece with a great text referring to our fallen soldiers, a quick easy learner that could be used in a variety of different settings

### Songs from the British Isles, Australia, & Africa

<i>Fergus an' Molly</i>	Vijay Singh	TTBB, recorder, guitar or piano	Belwin	OCT19605	Secular	English	A song your men will love! Can be quite challenging as there is a tricky a cappella section in the middle, a great song for contest
<i>Finnan Haddie</i>	Vijay Singh	TTBB, recorder, guitar or piano	Belwin	OCT19607	Secular	English	A fun and relatively easy piece to learn, has a humorous text that the boys enjoy, upbeat, Celtic influence
<i>Star of Co. Down, The</i>	Donald Patriquin	TTBB w/tenor soloist, piano	Earthsongs		Secular	English	A robust Irish folk song which is quite wordy, fun song with some unique dialect opportunities
<i>The Ballad of Skipper Knight</i>	Stephen Hatfield	TTB, piano	Hal Leonard	48019424	Secular	English	Primarily two-part singing in the piece with a few three-part divisions. Great for your younger singers!
<i>Tshotsholoza</i>	Arr. Jeffery Ames	TTBB w/tenor soloist, opt. percussion	Walton	HL08501546	Secular	English	A winner! African freedom song with a great beat, repetitive text and easy note learning – Men love this piece and will consider it one of the favorite songs of the year! Another great piece for introducing four-part harmony as it is primarily homophonic

### Sailor Songs

<i>A Capital Ship</i>	Arr. Mike Richardson	TTBB, a cappella	Mark Foster	MF 1065	Secular	English	A good song to use as an introduction to a cappella singing, B2 needs a low F, easy learner
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<i>Cape Cod Girls</i>	Arr. Emily Crocker	TTBB, piano	Hal Leonard	8703183	Secular	English	A funny song with a unique text, a cappella section in the middle, upbeat and entertaining!
<i>Mermaid, The</i>	Arr. Michael Levi	TTBB, piano	CPP Belwin	SV9504	Secular	English	Four-part harmonies with solo opportunities, lots of homophony, a relatively quick learner as notes are quite easy, a fun song to perform
<i>On the Deep, Blue Sea</i>	Mary Donnelly, arr. George Strid	TTB, piano	Hal Leonard	8551278	Secular	English	A fantastic piece for the developing men's group, very singable ranges for all singers, guaranteed success with this arrangement, fun lyrics
<i>Sing Me a Song of a Lad That is Gone</i>	Sherri Porterfield	TTB, piano	CPP Belwin	SV9003	Secular	English	Suitable for junior high and high school men's choirs, Robert Louis Stevenson poem, upbeat and easy to learn

### Popular/Broadway Music

<i>Come Go With Me</i>	C.E. Quick, arr. Kirby Shaw	TTB, a cappella	Hal Leonard	8200540	Secular	English	50's tune with great possibilities!
<i>Happy Together</i>	Arr. Liz Garnett	TTBB, a cappella	Hal Leonard	8746919	Secular	English	A more challenging arrangement, intended for some more advanced high school singers, tight harmonies!
<i>Longest Time, The</i>	Billy Joel, arr. Tom Gentry	TTBB, piano	Hal Leonard	8746913	Secular	English	A Billy Joel favorite! This is arranged by a barbershop arranger and the harmonies are more difficult but not impossible. Young men really go for this one!
<i>Man of La Mancha</i>	Arr. Kirby Shaw	TTB, piano	Hal Leonard		Secular	English	A great piece for getting your guys to sing out at the beginning of the year! Men love this arrangement as it is "manly" and robust – add a little choral-ography and the audience will go nuts!
<i>Silhouettes</i>	Arr. Tom Gentry	TTBB, a cappella	Hal Leonard	8746911	Secular	English	Another 50's tune that is rather easy to learn – Again, choral-ography is the key to success! This is from the "Close Harmony for Men" choral series.