

Finding Good Repertoire for Young Men's Choirs

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**Places to look for repertoire*

Think of finding lit for your boys like a treasure hunt or a game. Don't give up right away and settle for pieces that are substandard just because they are easy to find!

My mission as Bass Clef R&S is to create lists of songs that work well for younger or less experienced choirs and make them available for teachers to find and use. On the BC R&S page there are several pdfs to use as a starting point. Two are from Zach Durlam and Ryan Person and list many pieces (in a variety of categories) that work well with younger HS men's choirs. Also attached are pdfs from me; because I teach 7-8-9 men's choirs, my list is of pieces I've used successfully with my guys . . . I didn't include the pieces that flopped :)

Visit publisher websites. Sites like Santa Barbara and Cypress Choral Music have many titles that don't show up when you search Pepper.

Take the time to scour for self-published composers! There is a lot of great music being written and sold exclusively through self-published composers. Most composers have full pdfs and recordings to help you experience the work.

ICDA has established an R&S chair for Self-published works and hopes this brings some visibility to new pieces.

Here are a few places to start your treasure hunt for self-published pieces

- Aspen Hill (Christopher Aspaas) — <http://www.aspenhillmusic.com>
- Timothy Takach — <http://www.timothyctakach.com>
- Jake Runestad — <http://jakerunestad.com>
- Graphite Publishing — <http://www.graphitepublishing.com>

An online vocal music publisher of digital scores. They have a great variety of voicings, composers and pieces.

- Independent Music Publishers — <http://imp.coop>

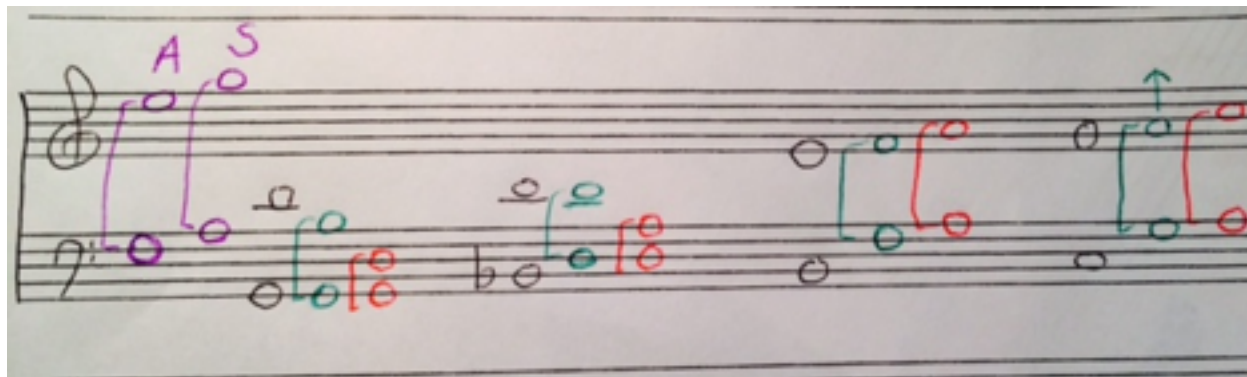
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*Practical Considerations for Young Men's Choirs

Range

- I use men's labels with all my boys . . . however, the expected range for that label shifts from year to year:

- Bass 2 Baritone Tenor 2 Tenor 1



- Red = 7th Green = 8th Black = 9th Purple = girl

- 9th guys — how tenor 2 often can't be heard . . . they fear D-E-F/F# (the dead zone)
- useable range varies from concert to concert, class to class . . . you can create a wish list of pieces to perform that year, but need to have lots of back up pieces in your arsenal for when a piece fails
- Balance the programming: Remember to give them a variety.
- They fear "difficult" — wordy text (foreign language), too sophisticated. HOWEVER, if you break it down and give them success, these become the pieces they *remember*

*Non-traditional pieces that have worked for my guys

Here are some titles that are not published that are worth looking at for your young men's choir.

9th

- I don't adapt pieces often; their voices are starting to fit traditional voice range by 9th grade
- *Red is the Rose* by Mark Sirett
- *Shojjee* by B. Wayne Bisbee

8th

- they can often handle published pieces in young men's voicings, but I sometimes adapt to provide variety
- *Clear Water* by Robert Hugh

7th

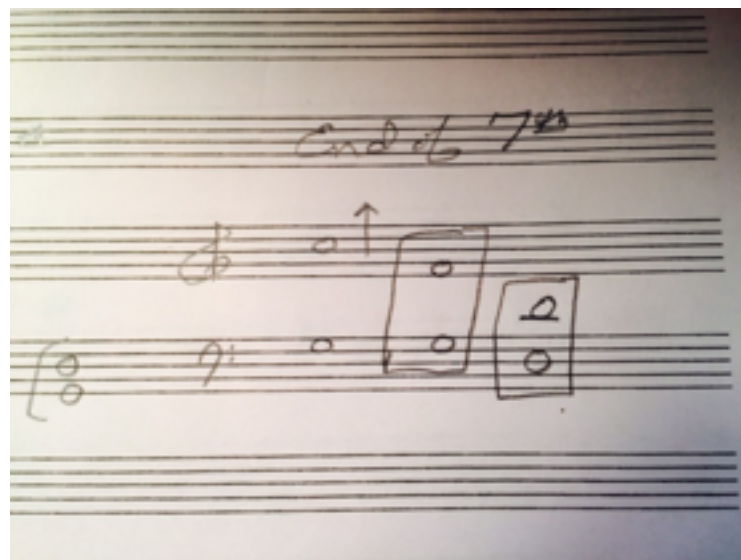
- Most challenging to program for
- Start of year ranges



- End of year ranges

These are the guys that are the most challenging for me to program. Their ranges are the most varied . . . tons of unchanged voices . . . tons of unchanged-but-refuse-to-sing-high-notes voices, a handful of I-can't-sing-above-3rd-line-D voices. These guys are not composers' favorite group to write for! Time to get creative.

They need variety! Over the course of the year, cover foreign language, different time period/styles, etc (list more objectives)



Pieces that adapt well for 7th men

Song	Voicing	Concert	
Liwaya (Joy I Feel)	treble	Fall	arr. Gregory
Soldier's Joy	2-part treble	Fall	arr. Crocker
This Old Man	2 part treble	Fall	arr. Gilpin
Thula Klizeo	2 part treble	Fall	arr. Page
Two Native American	treble	Fall	arr. Sletto
Uskudar	treble	Fall	arr. Sletto
Yonder Come Day	treble	Fall	
Canto de Pilon	2 part treble	Winter	arr. Grases
Colinda	2 part treble	Winter	arr. Scott
900 Miles	3 part mixed	Winter	arr. Silvey
Tres Cantos	SATB	Winter	arr. Liete
We Will	2 part treble	Winter	Papoulis
The Cuckoo	3 part mixed	Winter/Spring	arr. Hugh
The Robin is the One	2 part treble	Winter/Spring	Ginsberg

Published pieces that work for 7th

Song	Voicing	Concert	
Drover's Dream	TB	Winter/Spring	Singh
Hallelujah for the Day	TTB	Winter	Ramsey
Joshua!	TB	Winter	arr. Moore
Rest Not	TB	Winter	Farnell
Salaam Aliekum	TTB	Winter	arr. Farnell
The Boatmen Stomp	CTB	Spring	Gray
Drill Ye Tarriers	TTB	Spring	arr. Crocker
Lots of Fish in Bonavist Harbor	TB	Spring	arr. Miller
Hullabaloo Balay	TTB	Spring	Krunnfusz
Music's Echo	TB	Spring	Gilpin

Full videos of all songs are posted on my school website. To access: email me, and I'll send you the link OR Google "Prairie Point Choir" — we are the first result. All performances are by normal kids and are not guaranteed to be perfect :) . . . lol! We are very far from perfect!

Kelly