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Singing is fun! Make it the most fun experience possible for your students. Your best teachers in school were those who made learning fun. Select good repertoire. Use the NYSSMA manual as a resource guide. Don't be afraid to try difficult selections. Mix up the light-hearted and fun music with solid, serious repertoire. Children truly know the difference between "good" music and "bad" music. Look into music from Doreen Rao's "Choral Music Experience," also, anything from the Henry Leck series, Ruth Dwyer, Mary Goetze, John Rutter, André Thomas, Nick Page, Rollo Dilworth, Janet Galvan etc.

Recommended Literature, Rehearsal and Curriculum Ideas

Hine Ma Tov – Allan E. Naplan – Boosey & Hawkes

- NYSSMA Major Organization Level I
- Hebrew text, Jewish Klezmer style
- 2-part harmony in thirds
- Excellent piece for understanding phrasing
- Upbeat, fun, syncopated accompaniment
- Major vs. minor

Manx Lullaby – Lori-Anne Dolloff – Boosey & Hawkes

- NYSSMA Major Organization Level I
- Exploration of Mixolydian mode
- Cultural connection of the "Isle of Man"
- Traditional Gaelic style
- Rocking Melody – Conduct in 1
- Expressive Phrasing
- Dynamics and vocal color
- Beautiful with flute or oboe accompaniment, or even harp

O Music – Lowell Mason, Arr. Doreen Rao – Boosey & Hawkes

- NYSSMA Major Organization Level I
- Stepwise motion development
- Great for Solfege and sight-singing
- 3-part canon
- Historical Connection – Lowell Mason was America's first public school music educator known for teaching singing.
- Phrasing – Great exercise to have students conduct

Velvet Shoes – Randall Thompson – ECS Publishing

- NYSSMA Major Organization Level I
- Great for vowel production
- Excellent for ending phrases with crisp consonants
- Beautifully intricate piano accompaniment
- Modulations and mixed meter
- Exploration of text and phrasing

Haida – Henry Leck – Colla Voce Music

- NYSSMA Major Organization Level I
- Chassidic Round
- Excellent introduction to part singing
- Form – AABB
- Have students perform the movement
- EXPLORE dynamics!
- Students will enjoy the accelerando at the end, almost frantic!

A Great Big Sea – Lori-Anne Dolloff – Boosey & Hawkes

- NYSSMA Major Organization Level I
- Excellent piece for diction
- Unison
- Several modulations
- Upbeat, fun, sixteenth notes
- Have student perform the spoon part
- Great for working on octaves
- Great fiddle part

Fairest Lady – Nick Page – Boosey & Hawkes

- Number 7 of the Nursery Rhyme Cantata
- Unison Singing with Descant
- Outstanding piece to introduce melismatic singing
- Key changes, phrasing/expression, dynamics, text painting
- Cool treatment of “London Bridge”

Feel Good – L. Craig Tyson & Leonard Scott/Arr. Barbara Baker & David J. Elliott – Boosey & Hawkes

- NYSSMA Major Organization Level II
- High Energy African-American Gospel
- 3-part harmony – Use Solfege to teach/reinforce parts
- Challenging Modulation at top of page 5
- Clean crisp consonants
- Add gentle swaying movement
- DON'T OVERSING!
- Excellent opener or closer

Al Shlosa D'Varim – Allan E. Naplan – Boosey & Hawkes

- NYSSMA Major Organization Level II
- Solo Introduction is beautiful way to begin
- One of the most lovely melody vs. Piano accompaniment ever written for children's voices
- Great piece to reinforce proper vowel formation
- Partner Song – Great for beginner part singers

Dodi Li – Arr. Doreen Rao – Boosey & Hawkes

- NYSSMA Major Organization Level II
- Authentic Hebrew text
- Explore dynamic contrast
- High Energy Accompaniment – Great closer
- Several opportunities for soloists
- Great piece to reinforce singing on upbeats (eighth rest downbeats)

Medieval Gloria – Vijay Singh – Alfred Publishing

- NYSSMA Major Organization Level II
- Exploration of Dorian mode
- Latin Text
- Have student play hand drum
- Antecedent and consequent phrasing
- Expressive Phrasing
- Dynamics and vocal color
- Excellent for vowels and end of phrase consonants
- Wonderful for processional

Who Can Sail? – Finnish Folk Song / Arranged by Carl-Bertil Agnestig – Walton Music Corp.

- NYSSMA Major Organization Level II
- Stepwise motion development
- Great canonic and part singing
- Finnish text, although I have heard it performed in English by various national honor choirs

Can You Hear Me? – Bob Chilcott – Oxford University Press

- NYSSMA Major Organization Level II
- Great for vowel production
- Excellent for ending phrases with crisp consonants
- Freeze tones
- Sign Language
- Exploration of text and phrasing
- Incredible climax at top of page 7

Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening – Vera Kistler – Alfred Publishing

- NYSSMA Major Organization Level II
- Language Arts connection of Robert Frost poem
- Mixed meter
- EXPLORE dynamics!
- Have a student perform the sleigh bells

Shake The Papaya Down – Calypso Song / Arranged by Ruth Dwyer / Edited by Henry Leck

- NYSSMA Major Organization Level II
- Easily accessible three-part piece. Students will sing all parts of the song.
- Perfect piece to introduce syncopation
- Great exercise is to have your chorus spread out in your class, gym or auditorium and have them sing their part, separate from their section.

Path To The Moon – Eric H. Thiman – Boosey & Hawkes

- Challenging unison piece
- Singing octaves without scooping
- Phrasing/Expression
- Use of text to tell story
- Dynamics

Niska Banja – Nick Page – Boosey & Hawkes

- Very driving piece in 9/8
- Need superb accompanist
- Students LOVE to be challenged, this will challenge them!
- Coloration of vowels and articulation of consonants

The Sally Gardens – Benjamin Britten – Boosey & Hawkes

- Beautiful unison singing, yet, not an “easy” unison piece
- Emphasize importance of phrasing
- Rich, open vowel sounds
- Examine the text, great story
- Clear ending consonants in the phrase

Give Us Hope – James Papoulis/Edited Francisco J. Nunez – Boosey & Hawkes

- Positive lyrical message – great character building for young students
- Gospel feel, great opener or closer
- Take advantage of dynamics building into the chorus

Jubilate Deo – Michael Praetorius / Arranged by Doreen Rao – Boosey & Hawkes

- Great intro to part singing – Can be performed as 2, 3, or 4 part canon
- Use solfege, excellent for sight-reading – Do, Re, Mi intro
- Great range builder – Middle C to 4th space E
- Latin text
- Polyphonic texture
- Renaissance music
- Great processional as students are entering auditorium

Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel – Traditional Spiritual / Arranged by Roger Emerson – Hal Leonard

- Very fun, driving accompaniment
- Great two part voicing
- Students really enjoy this piece

Annie Laurie – Arranged by Earlene Rentz – BriLee Music Publishing

- Truly one of the most beautiful melodies for children's choirs
- Great for working on octaves
- Expressive Phrasing
- Dynamics and vocal color
- Excellent for vowels and end of phrase consonants
- There will be no dry eyes in the audience, gorgeous piece!

The Drinking Gourd – Traditional / Arranged by André J. Thomas – Lorenz Publishing Comp.

- Social Studies connection – slaves following the Drinking Gourd (Big Dipper)
- Wonderful range builder (A below the staff to 5th line F)
- Syncopation in vocal line and piano accompaniment
- Canonic phrases
- EXPLORE dynamics!
- Use of text to tell story

The Old Carrion Crow – Nova Scotian Folk Song / Arranged by Mary Goetze – Boosey & Hawkes

- Challenging nonsense text
- Lots of use of 16th notes, excellent for consonants
- Dorian mode
- Piano departs from the melody, great way to build confidence and independence

When I Close My Eyes – Jim Papoulis / Edited by Francisco Nunez – Boosey & Hawkes

- Three distinct sections
 - I. Gentle, innocent and delicate
 - II. Upbeat and with authority
 - III. Gentle, innocent with added confidence
- Gorgeous cello part
- Excellent piece to work on student facial expressions and emotional involvement
- Perfect piece to reinforce importance of singing with proper phrasing.

How Can I Keep From Singing? – Quaker Song / Arranged by Ginger Littleton – BriLee Music Pub.

- Beautiful pentatonic melody
- Emphasize importance of phrasing
- Rich, open vowel sounds
- Examine the text, great message of internal strength and hope
- Piano departs from the melody, great way to build confidence and independence

Some More Of My Favorite Things

Donkey Carol – John Rutter – Oxford University Press - Unison

Sakura, Sakura (Japanese Melody) – Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner – Lorenz Corporation – 2-Part

Dormi, Dormi (Sweetly Slumber) – Arranged by Mary Goetze – Boosey & Hawkes - Unison

Two Childhood Songs – Randall Thompson – Unison/2-Part

Oh, How My Heart Sing! – Barbara Wolfman – Boosey & Hawkes – 2-Part

Jingle Bell Swing – Arranged by David J. Elliott – Boosey & Hawkes – 2-Part

Sesere Eeye – Traditional from Torres Strait Islands – Mark O’Leary Music Pub. – 3-Part

The Castle of Dromore – Arranged by Lori-Anne Dolloff – Boosey & Hawkes – 2-Part

Eamomm An Chnoic – Arranged by Lori-Anne Dolloff – Boosey & Hawkes – 2-Part

The Unsuitable Suitor – Margaret King – Boosey & Hawkes – Unison

How Beautiful Are The Feet Of Them – G.F. Handel/Rao – Boosey & Hakes – Unison

Domine Deus Agnus Dei – A. Vivaldi/Galvan – Lorenz Publishing - Unison

Un Moto di Gioja – W.A. Mozart/Ellsworth – Boosey & Hawkes – Unison

Two Nobody Songs (I’m Nobody! Who Are You?/Mr. Nobody) – Paul Bouman – Earthsongs – 2/3-Part

Here’s To Song – Allister MacGillivray/Lydia Adams – Leslie Music Supply Inc. – 2-Part

Will There Really Be A Morning – Craig Hella Johnson – Alliance Music Pub. – 2-Part

The Bees – Daniel Shaw – Boosey & Hawkes – 2-Part

Galop (from “Solfege Suite”) – Ken Berg – Pavane Publishing – Unison

The Elements – Bob Chilcott – Oxford University Press – Unison/2-Part

Three Mark Twain Settings (I. To Be The First II. Explore, Dream Discover III. When In Doubt, Tell The Truth) – Nick Page – Hal Leonard Publishing – 2/3-Part

My Favorite Things – Arranged by Joy Ondra Hirokawa – Hal Leonard – 3-Part