

2018 KCDA Middle School Tried and True Reading Session

Erin Stewart Stubenrauch

Unison/2 Part

Symphony of the Night – Patterson, Mark – BriLee Music (BL799)

- This piece worked beautifully for my intermediate treble choir. The optional second part has its own melody line with identical tessitura. We worked on phrasing and text stress using paintbrushes and rubberbands. The piece helped develop tone and blend. While work on expression and understanding the text, each student was assigned a phrase and used colored pencils to illustrate the textual images. In class, they held up their phrase as the class sang it.

2 Part

Glory to God – Pergolesi/Greyson – Morning Star Pub. (MSM-50-1450)

- This is a very regal piece that great introduction to music from the Baroque time period. It has echoed lines, unison sections and a few areas of harmonies in a 3rd. They enjoyed working on the diction and dynamic contrasts. We started the piece in small sections as sight-singing examples, so when I put the piece in their hands they recognized many of the lines.

Stories of My Life – Waggoner, David – Alfred (45643)

- It was hard to put this piece on the alternate list. My 6th grade treble choir LOVED this piece. They loved the melodic lines, discovering the stories from their childhood and learning about new classic children's stories. We had parents and community members come in and read the stories included in the song as well as other favorite children's stories to the choir. The choir also walked to our nearby elementary choir where they read their favorite children's story and listened to the children read to them. It is not an easy piece. A lot of work needs to be done on diction, vowels, phrasing and text stress. You could easily do it as a unison number. We brought it back out in April to sing for our librarian for National Librarians Week. This is a piece they will remember forever.

SA

Weevily Wheat – Traditional/ Kirchner – Boosey & Hawkes (48023921)

- *Weevily Wheat* is a fun arrangement of a traditional American country dancing song. It is to be sung a cappella with optional hand percussion. The piece was difficult enough for us, so our percussionist added elements with spoons, washboard and bells around his ankle. The girls enjoyed learning about the historic elements of the piece. The most difficult part was the little differences each time a part came back and then putting it together. However, once they heard it come together for the first time, they felt amazing.

TTB

Cangoma – Brazilian Folk Song/Beery & Deaney – BriLee (BL918)

- *Cangoma* is a fabulous processional piece. We even had the treble choir on the risers sing the opening with the TTB choir as one exited and one loaded the risers. The piece is a simple introduction to singing in Spanish and music about freedom from slavery from areas other than Africa. It was another piece we learned first on simpler rhythms and solfege. You could always leave out 1 or 2 of the parts and/or double parts an octave higher with your ladies. The ability to be flexible with the voicing makes this piece great for middle school choirs.

SATB

Viva! Wolfgang, Amadeus Mozart/Liebergen – Alfred (45601)

- *Viva!* was a strong opener, sung by all choir students, for our spring concert. It is a very simple introduction to Italian diction. The choirs loved how powerful the song made them feel and sound. I did add a Tenor 1 line that was a combination of others parts, since it goes down to an F. The piece does have a duet in the middle for treble voices that I had my smaller advanced treble choir sing together since the mass choir was so large.

Alternates:

SSA

Tanzen und Springen – Hassler/Burkhard – Bourne Co (313168)

- This lively piece is full of fun musical elements for my advanced treble choir. They loved working on and bringing out the contrasting lines. It is an a cappella madrigal from the Renaissance. The choir loved the lively tempo, lightheartedness and dance feeling of the piece. It is a great piece to introduce on solfege.

TTB(B)

Though Much is Take – Johnson, Victor – Choristers Guild (CGE24)

- The TTB choir loved the melodic lines of this piece and the message. I am always looking for music with phrasing and text like this for my men. They LOVE it! I did write in a few notes for the Tenor 1 line to keep it above a G. There were so many elements of proper diction and text stress also covered in the piece. The areas where one section was supposed to sing, we either all sang our doubled, depending on range.

SATB

Sisi ni Moja – Narverud Jacob – SBMP (1338)

- This is an AMAZING piece of music. We ended our first concert of the year with everyone in choir singing this piece together. We also sang it at the city of Olathe's Martin Luther King Celebration after Donald Kendrick's beautiful *Alleluia*. We add minimal movement at the end, by grabbing hands of our neighbors at letter E and slowly raising them together. We let go and the arms fell slowly at letter F. Then on the fine word, we clasped hands again and took a strong step forward with our right foot and chest lifted strongly. Again, as with others, the areas where S or A sang alone, I had all women sing together. The piece is so intense and the message strong. Then we ended our second concert with *We are One* by Brian Tate. We signed the text of the piece and again ended with interlocking arms as one.