

ACDA-PA/PMEA Repertoire Session, April 2008
Recommended Repertoire for Middle School and High School Men's Choirs
Dr. Christopher Kiver
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American Folk Rhapsody

Linda Spevacek

TB and piano
Heritage Choral Series 15/1779H

Well suited for middle school singers. This medley includes *Cindy*, *Simple Gifts*, and *Pick a Bale of Cotton*. An appealing setting in which all singers sing the melody at some point, and when accompanying, each vocal part has an appealing line. Refreshing that there is no modulation! Singers and audience will enjoy this one which includes claps and slaps.

Al shlosha d'varim

Allan E. Naplan

2 part and piano
Boosey OCTB6783

Usually sung by upper voice choirs, this setting is ideal for young changing voices with a limited range (E flat to C sharp). Two lyrical melodies are first presented alone and then together. Hebrew text translates as "The world is sustained by three things, by truth, by justice, and by peace". Pronunciation guide included.

A-Rovin'

arranged Ron Jeffers

TB a cappella
earthsongs

A charming arrangement of this sea chantey which is essentially leaves the melody in the upper voices, and the lower voices providing pleasing harmonic support. Very brief divisions into three and four parts (only the last measure is in four parts). Complete range is B3 to F#4 – most of the B3s can be transposed up an octave.

Fillimiooriay

Irish-American folk song

TTB and piano
Alfred Publishing

arranged Lon Beery

An energetic account of Paddy's life, in the mid nineteenth century emigrating to the States, working on the Railway, marrying Bidy McGee and her subsequent death after having eleven children! A strophic setting which has a rousing chorus, and the verses can be sung by optional soloists. Suitable for middle school singers though upper voices will have to negotiate numerous F4s.

May God Smile on You

Johann Sebastian Bach

TB and piano
C F Peters

Taken from the *Wedding Cantata, number 196, Der Herr denket an uns*, the original German title for this duet is *Der Herr segne euch*. Well suited to young singers with elegant melodic lines, short phrases, sequential writing, imitation and some homophony. A lovely setting – English and German text provided.

Leaning on a Lamppost*from Me and My Girl*

TTB and piano

Shawnee Press

Noel Gay, arr. John Leavitt

A charming melody, mostly unison with brief, simple harmonic textures. Ranges suit younger singers. Comes complete with an opportunity to add choreography.

Avenging and bright

TTBB a cappella

Lawson Gould

Irish folk song, arr. Alice Parker

A rousing setting which begins "Avenging and bright fall the swift sword of Erin On him who the brave sons of Usna betrayed!". Lots of imagery which conjures up pictures of chivalrous knights. A rhythmic setting, largely homophonic, with some independent part writing. The music is well suited to the text and requires a variety in vocal timbre. Ranges well suited to young high school singers.

When the saints go marching in

TTBB and piano

Roberton Publications/Presser

Traditional, arr; Denys Hood

A fun arrangement which captures the energy associated with this melody through a vamp-like piano accompaniment. A clever arrangement which opens in unison, and gradually builds to a multi-layer texture with contrasting sections and interesting part writing. Suitable for high school singers.

Miserere mei, Deus

TTBB a cappella

Alliance Music Publications AMP 0611

Gregorio Allegri, arr. James Rodde

An abridged arrangement of the famous motet more commonly heard in the original mixed voice setting. Mostly homophonic, the ranges are well suited to high school singers and older. Some wonderful dissonance, and an effective performance will require good attention to syllabic stress.

We Shall Walk Through the Valley Spiritual adapted William Appling

TTBB a cappella

World Library Publications 2328

Homophonic, ranges well suited to young singers (highest pitch is E flat above middle C). The effectiveness of this arrangement is in its simplicity. Textless second verse is effective.