Literature for Middle-Level and Emerging High School Choirs

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A Composition Project 2012 – 2026

Write 20 songs for middle-level and emerging high school choirs with

30 sopranos and altos
6 tenors and basses

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A Starting Point:

Two Choices:

1. Combined the tenors and basses: SAB
2. Give tenors and basses their own parts: SATB

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Help

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Two Recipes

SATB (Supported TB)

- Tenors and Basses always get help.
- T and B can together (SAB)
- Sing in octaves with S or A
- Sing in unison with S or A
- It changes throughout

2012 - 2020

SATB (Two Part)

- Tenors sing in octaves with sopranos 100% of the time.
- Basses sing in octaves with altos 100% of the time.

2020 - Present

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Two Recipes

SATB (Supported TB)

- Tenors and Basses always get help.

SA(T)B

SATB (Two-Part)

- Tenors sing in octaves with sopranos 100% of the time.
- Basses sing in octaves with altos 100% of the time.

SAB (Opt. Tenor)

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#1 - Veni, Sancte Spiritus

- SATB (2-Part) also works SA or TB
- "Classically Inspired"
- Teach "syllabic stress."
- Teach "forward motion."
- Teach "arched phrases."
- Also available: SA & TB

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#2 – The Storm

- SATB (2-Part) also works TB or SA
- Inspired by "Deadliest Catch"
- Students can relate to the text.
- Lots of counterpoint.
- Also available: SATB & TBB

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#3 - In Flanders Fields

- SATB (2-Part) also works TB or SA
- From WWI.
- Perfect for Veteran's Day
- Great poetry study
- Also available: TB

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#4 - Wade in the Water

- SATB (2-Part) also works TB or SA
- Opportunity for eight solos
- Solos are in a variety of ranges
- Solo parts: Very narrow range
- Also available: SA or TB

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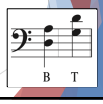
#5 - The True Lover's Farewell

- TB - very limited ranges
- English Folk Ballad ("The Turtle Dove")
- A good text for students, (loneliness)
- Opportunities to teach articulations
- A program "closer" or "opener"
- Also available: SA and SATB (2-Part)



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#6 - Haec Dies - SA

- "Classically Inspired" (Handel)
- Work on syllabic stress
- Teach counterpoint
- Makes a good program "opener"
- For concert or contest
- Also avail. TB and SATB (2-Part)

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#7 - A Cowboy's Life - TTB

- Works equally well TTB or TB
- Opportunity for eight solos
- Solos in a variety of ranges
- Glamorizes an "idyllic" lifestyle

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#8 - Regina Coeli - TB

- "Classically Inspired" (Haydn)
- Work on syllabic stress
- Plenty of counterpoint
- Great for contest
- Also avail: SATB (supp. TB)
  SATB (2-Part)

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#9 - Exultate Justi SA(T)B

- SATB - (supported TB)
- Classically inspired (Vivaldi)
- Use of counterpoint
- All parts get the "lead"
- Teach "syllabic stress"
- Also available: SA, TTB, and SA(T)B

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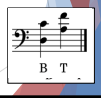
#10 - Laudate Dominum

- SATB (supported TB) SA(T)B
- Lots of counterpoint
- "Classically Inspired" (Vivaldi)
- Teach "syllabic stress"
- Great for concert or contest
- Also avail: SA, TB, and SATB (2-Part)



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#11 - Old Joe Clark

- SATB (supp. TB)
- A novelty song - crazy
- "Tongue-in-cheek" humor
- Full of interesting rhythms
- A great program closer.

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#12 - Elijah - SAB

- Baritone in the "common" range
- Some sections are SATB (Two-Part)
- Jazz chords to tune
- Many articulations to teach
- Makes a good "opener"

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#13 – Hold On – SATB

- Plenty of fun articulations
- Interesting half steps to tune
- Plenty of arched phrases
- Use a brake drum.
- Written for my Concert Choir
- Also avail: SATB (2-part) SA, TB, SSA

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#14 – The Wind That Shakes the Barley For SSATB Chorus and SSA Semi-Chorus

- For high school and above
- Best done with war drum and guitar
- Combine top choir and treble Choir
- A "love triangle" Woman vs. Country

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#15 – Bailará – SSATB

- Flamenco-tango style
- Best with shaker, guitar, and congas
- You'll need dedicated "clappers"
- Recommended 9th grade or higher
- Also available: TTBB and TB

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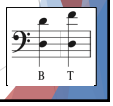
#16 – Ritmo SA(T)B

- Easier version of the SATB divisi
- 4-handed piano part
- T and B always sing with another part
- Sounds harder than it actually is
- Do it with FULL ORCHESTRA!
- Also available: SATB and TTBB
- (The TTBB works for SSAA)



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Thank you

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Literature List

- dandavisonmusic.com
- Workshop Notes
- Dan Davison's Literature for MS

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