

Repertoire & Resources - Repertoire Recommendations

Editor's note: The following is a list of repertoire recommended by the repertoire & resources chairs from the corresponding area. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but we hope you find one or two pieces to explore for future programming. The National R&R leadership team is posted on the ACDA website at <https://acda.org/about-us/acda-leadership>.

Children & Youth Community Choirs

Recommended by Joy Hirokawa
National R&R Chair,
Children & Youth Community
Choirs

A Path to Hope

Katerina Gimon
arr. N/A
SSA
A cappella

In three short movements totalling 5'30" and using only body percussion, Gimon captures the experience of last year in isolation due to the Covid pandemic. She posed questions to Canadian choral music educators and used their responses and reflections as the basis for the text. Themes of "voicelessness, overcoming fear, and seeking hope" make this a very poignant, meaningful, and relevant work.

Where the Light Begins

Susan LaBarr
arr. N/A
SSA
Piano

Premiered at the 2019 ACDA National Conference, this piece features a beautiful, lilting melody over a simple repeated chord accompaniment that is really satisfying to sing. While the poem was originally written for Advent, the message is universal: Peace begins with each of us as individuals.

Peace on Earth... and Lots of Little Crickets

Paul Carey
arr. N/A
Two part
Bass marimba and small percussion

This humorous poem is a great secular choice for December, and provides opportunities to involve student musicians or adult guests on numerous small percussion parts. The piece is very accessible for young singers, with opportunities for more advanced singers to join in on the ending harmony. Very fun!

College & University Choirs

Recommended by Amanda Quist
Coordinator
College and University Choirs

Veni Sancte Spiritus

Zanaida Robles
arr. N/A
SATB
Piano

There is an inherent energy and hopefulness in the piano writing



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both in harmonic and rhythmic choices. The text is traditional, but Dr. Robles sets it in a way that is at once sophisticated but also immediate in its appeal.

There Was a Time

Elaine Hagenberg

arr. N/A

SATB

Piano

Written in memory of a child who passed away, this piece is crafted with the poetry of William Wordsworth. Beautiful melodic lines, harmonic arrivals, and expertly crafted chord voicings make this piece a joy to sing, and the writing invites a brilliant choral sound. A perfect piece for those who are grieving and need a reminder of the importance of our life's relationships with one another.

Regina Caeli

Vicente Lusitano

arr. N/A

SSATB

Unaccompanied

Vicente Lusitano is known as the first published black composer. This piece was only recently discovered and brought to light. A beautiful Renaissance motet with well-crafted points of imitation and some wonderful harmonic surprises along the way, this is a piece that should find its way into the traditional canon.

Recommended by Caron Daley
National R&R Chair,
College and University Choirs

Wake Up, My Spirit

Adolphus Hailstork

arr. N/A

SATB

Piano

This gospel-inspired showpiece for mixed choir is a thrilling concert opener or closer. The text, from Psalm 57, is both a hymn of praise and a call to action. Rapidly-enunciated vocal lines, parallel chords, and a funk-style piano accompaniment make this piece fun for singers and audience alike.

Someplace

Jocelyn Hagen

arr. N/A

SSAATTBB and soloists

Unaccompanied

This pop-inspired piece features an aspirational text about moving forward and charting new courses in life. A beatboxing part and vocal percussion accompany a soaring melody that weaves from part to part. Hagen's colorful harmonies and keen sense of drama make this piece an adventure for the choir. Very satisfying!

Stomp on the Fire

Andrea Ramsay

arr. N/A

SSAATTBB

Unaccompanied

This evocative a cappella/body percussion piece explores the human journey from adversity to unity. Layered rhythms and a wordless text create a musically rich landscape. A fabulous introduction to a "tone poem" style of composition!

Community Choirs

Recommended by Matt Hill
National R&R Chair,
Community Choirs

O Sapientia

Douglas Byler

arr. N/A

SATB

Piano or Harp

Lovely, soothing, creative mixed meter meditation for Advent/Christmas. Long-line phrasing on beautiful vowels, and satisfying contemporary harmonies.

Fare Thee Well, Love

James Mulholland

arr. N/A

SATB (divisi)

Optional piano

Americana/folk feel with some contemporary harmonies and a gorgeous tenor solo/soli. The melody is memorable, singable, and the entire

piece is emotionally captivating.

Invictus

Joshua Rist

arr. N/A

SATB

Piano and Cello

Fiery and fierce with energy to spare. The poem is empowering, and the music has a cinematic character with chromatic mediant harmonies and a homophonic choral texture.

Contemporary/ Commercial Choirs

Recommended by Mike Weaver

National R&R Chair,

Contemporary/Commercial Choirs

Yacht Rock!

Various Composers

arr. Roger Emerson

SATB, SAB, 2-Part

Synth, electric guitar, acoustic

guitar, bass, drums, percussion

This pop title medley would program well in a pops concert setting. Well-known and popular songs such as: "Dance With Me," "Ride Like The Wind," "Sailing," "Still The One," "Summer Breeze," and "You Can Do Magic." All catchy and beautiful melodies that are enjoyable to sing and presented for general feel-good spirit that would be nostalgic for parents and grandparents.

Lift Every Voice And Sing

John Rosamond Johnson

Michael Geiger

Solo and SATBB Divisi

A cappella

A fresh idea for concert material. Beyond the song's historical and educational value, it tips its hat to diversity and inclusion with its positive, hopeful, and timely lyrics. The arrangement has contemporary harmonic treatment with identifiable Take Six influences.

Papa Loves Mambo

Al Hoffman, Dick Manning and

Bix Reichner

Mark Hayes

SATB, SAB, 2-part, SSA, TTB, TTBB

This is a concert audience participation opportunity! Not only can it include the music department (band and choir), but it is voiced for numerous choirs. The piece can easily stand on its own and has a beautifully recorded accompaniment/performance track. Easy and fast to learn.

Lifelong Choirs

Recommended by Terre Johnson

Lifelong Singing Coordinator

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

Dan Forrest

arr. N/A

SATB

Piano or orchestra

A moving Christmas piece.

Drinkin' of the Wine

Rosephanye Powell

arr. N/A

SATB

A cappella

A wonderful, less-heard spiritual.

Lord, Make Me an Instrument

M. Roger Holland II

arr. N/A

SATB

Piano or orchestra

A brilliant setting of prayer of Francis of Assisi in a gospel style.

Music in Worship Choirs

Recommended by Bryan Black

National R&R Chair,

Music in Worship

I Will Bless the Lord

Peter Mathews

SATB

Organ

Reflects the style of twentieth-century English cathedral anthems yet modest in difficulty and length.

Serve the Lord with Gladness

Rollo Dilworth

SATB with opt. Youth/Children

Piano

Original gospel influenced setting of Psalm 100, which functions later as

counter melody combined with the OLD 100th “Doxology.” Engaging partner song opportunity for children, youth, or congregation; excellent for multigenerational, festive occasions.

Jubilate Deo

Peter Angela
SATB
Piano

Psalm 100 (Latin) set in a playful, mixed-meter style featuring rhythmic text patterns that help overcome language anxiety.

Men's/TTBB Choirs

Recommended by Dustin Cates
National R&R Chair,
Men's/TTBB Choirs

Light, My Light

Vytautas Miškinis
arr. N/A
TTBB (divisi)
Soprano Sax

Miškinis' setting of Tagore's inspiring text perfectly encapsulates the feeling of joy that comes with being able to sing together (in-person) again. Miškinis' creative approach to harmony, rhythm and meter, as well as the saxophone soloist, add to the excitement of the piece.

The Song We Sing

Jacob Narverud
arr. N/A
TTBB
A Cappella

The Song We Sing speaks to the power of singing together. Jacob Narverud's setting of Robert Bode's text can serve as an anthem for any choral ensemble that emphasizes the importance of being a community of song.

Convidando Esta La Noche

Juan Garcia de Zepedes
arr. Eugene Rogers
TTBB
Guitar and Percussion

Eugene Rogers offers a fresh arrangement of late Renaissance/early Baroque, Mexican composer, Juan Garcia de Zepedes. Not only does Roger's setting bring much needed attention to this composer's contributions to this era of music history, but he does so in an accessible and exciting way that is sure to capture the interest of singers and audience members.

Senior High School & Junior High/Middle School Choirs

Recommended by Nathan Dame
National R&R Chair,
Senior High School Choirs

Barb'ry Allen

Joshua Shank
arr. N/A
T(T)B
Piano

This haunting melody captures the imagination of your emerging tenor-bass singers! The basses, in particular, love having the melody. It's a great piece for working range, blend, and balance.

Gloria

Rae Moses
arr. N/A
SA
Piano

This highly rhythmic octavo is a fantastic teaching piece, particularly time signatures, compound meters, and dotted eighth-sixteenth combinations. It's very repetitive, sounds more difficult than it actually is, and has a predictable form.

Hold Fast to Dreams

Susan LaBarr
arr. N/A
SATB
Piano

A gorgeous piece with accessible range! Great for intermediate-level middle school or junior high mixed choir.

Student Activities

Recommended by David Edmonds
National R&R Chair,
Student Activities

Kyrie (from Missa Rigensis)

Ugis Praulins
NA
SATB (div) with soloist
Unaccompanied

The sonority of the opening is immediately arresting and makes for an impactful opener.

The Wishing Tree

Joby Talbot
NA
6-voice mixed choir
Unaccompanied

This minimalist piece is a rhythmically exciting setting of a captivating text by Kathleen Jamie that speaks to our common hopes and dreams encapsulated in the image of a wishing tree (a tree into which people hammer coins in hopes it will make their wishes come true).

How Can I Keep From Singing

Robert Lowry
J. David Moore
SATTB
Unaccompanied

This timeless text is set to an original and vibrant tune by J. David Moore and is inspired by the Sacred Harp singing tradition.

Vocal Jazz/ Show Choirs

Recommended by John Stafford
National R&R Chair,
Vocal Jazz/Show Choirs

Walk With The Wind

Peggy Watson
arr. Matt Falker
SATB
A cappella; Optional piano and cajon parts

This work was written by San Diego native Peggy Watson and was inspired by the late U.S. Congressman John Lewis's final essay. It not only features an optional piano and cajon part, but there is also a featured solo for alto or tenor. The inspirational piece would be wonderful not only for vocal jazz groups, but for also a larger choir.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson
arr. Jarrett Johnson and Alvin Chea
SAATB
A cappella

This is a newly written arrangement of the Black National Anthem and it was just published on MLK Day this past January. The arrangement received a 2021 Grammy nomination for Best A cappella Arrangement.

I'll Be Seeing You

Fain/Kahal
arr. Phil Mattson
SATB
A cappella

One of Phil Mattson's most famous arrangements. Phil was a major figure in vocal jazz education, and this chart represents some of his best work from his very extensive catalog. It's a classic work that would work well for any size of vocal ensemble/choir.

World Musics & Cultures

Recommended by Jeffery Ames
National R&R Chair,
World Musics & Cultures

Dawn and Dusk (Fajar dan Senja)

Ken Steven
SATB divisi
Unaccompanied

Based upon the Indonesian Melayu scale, *Dawn and Dusk* explores the capabilities of the human voice. The piece is inspired by a short poem written by the composer, which symbolically represents the transition between night time, dawn, daytime, and sunset.

Holding Our Breath

Carlos Cardero

SATB

Unaccompanied

“Holding Our Breath” was written as a response to the death of Eric Garner and the COVID pandemic. This piece captivates the mind and spirit of humankind. Breathing is often taken for granted; however, what the world has experienced with COVID and social injustice proves that every breath is precious.

Dziedot Dzimu, Dziedot Augu

Latvian Folk Song

Alfrēds Kalniņš arr.

SATB divisi

Unaccompanied

During the course of several military occupations, the people of the Baltic countries relied on singing for encouragement and as a way to fight for their independence. “I was born to sing, I will always sing” is a testament to courage, faith, and hope.

Women's/SSAA Choirs

Recommended by Phillip Swan

National R&R Chair,

Women's/SSAA Choirs

The Sun Never Says

Dan Forrest

N/A

SSAA

Cello

Thoughtful text and haunting melody

You Do Not Walk Alone

Elaine Hagenberg

N/A

SSAA

Piano

The text is so hopeful and appropriate for our current situation.

I Rise: Women in Song

Reena Esmail

N/A

SSAA

String quintet, flute, harp

The empowering texts are all written by strong women (Eleanor Roosevelt, Maya Angelou, Arlene Geller, and Emily Dickinson). They are beautifully set by the rising Indian-American composer Reena Esmail.

Youth Choirs

Recommended by

Damion Womack,

National Youth Choirs Coordinator

Alleluia

Elaine Hagenberg

SATB

Unaccompanied

This piece was written during in the summer of 2020. The text of St. Augustine speaks directly to our thoughts and desires during that

time and currently. The buoyant 7/8 meter is brimming with vitality and energy. The contrasting middle section offers expansive lines and lush harmonies that propel the music into exciting key changes and a climactic ending. A wonderful opening selection!

We Shall Overcome

Robert Gibson, arr.

SATB

Unaccompanied

This setting of “We Shall Overcome,” a key anthem of the civil rights movement is both dynamic and well crafted. Great attention has been paid to the construction of the vocals, which throughout the work act as accompaniment to the soloist. A beautiful sentiment for our times.

Laudate Dominum

Ivo Antognini

SATB

Unaccompanied

A lovely a cappella work for mixed choir, featuring a beautiful melody and gorgeous harmonies true to the composer's style. In addition, it is flowing and forward-moving melodically, but filled with delicacy and joy. This uncomplicated work is a perfect addition for your concert or worship service. 