

MTVA Freshman Honor Choir

Greetings!

I can't wait to work with you next month. Our day of rehearsal will cover so many things, it's difficult to list them here, but some priorities:

1. We'll work a great deal on singing vowels and vowel purity.
2. We'll spend significant time finding the meaning behind these pieces.
3. We'll mark the music a great deal - always have a pencil!
4. We'll work to define proper rehearsal decorum and focus.
5. You will sing more than you are used to. The day before the festival, drink plenty of water and rest!

Here are some more specific instructions regarding the music.

Oh Whistle and I'll Come to Thee - Mack Wilberg

This piece is harder than it looks! Sopranos need to be light and spinning up in the top of the voice, and absolutely relaxed. Men, be very strict about your rhythm in accompaniment parts when the women have the melody. Pay special attention to rhythm on this piece. Be prepared to sing sections of this piece in small groups during rehearsal!

Ave Maria – Arcadelt

No specific instructions... make sure all notes and rhythms are learned accurately! Remember, no American 'r's... instead flip all 'r' sounds.

Tres Cantos – Leite

I will teach this piece on site... no need to prep any part of it. Just keep it closed until our first rehearsal.

Requiem - Eliza Gilkyson (arr. Hella Johnson)

Women – sing this piece as connected and legato as possible!

Basses – if any notes are too low or out of your range, please take them up the octave, or feel free to sing the tenor part. We will sing this piece one half step higher during the honor choir festival, teachers, feel free to transpose during preparation (in your mind, change the KS to 5 sharps).

Keep Your Lamps - André Thomas

No specific instructions... make sure all notes and rhythms are learned accurately! We'll work mostly on style aspects of this piece.