

Mass Choir Project: Rehearsal Notes

Freedom Trilogy, by Paul Halley

The Road-map:

- ❖ Semi-chorus at the beginning of the piece will be sung by all women in the Mass Choir Project
- ❖ M24 full choir will join:
- ❖ M89 Amazing Grace solo will be sung by Project Sing, and Cantiamo women only
- ❖ M122 T/B of the choir rejoin
- ❖ M126 ladies in all choirs treat this as a S1S2A1A2 split
- ❖ M131 men treat this as a T1T2B1B2 split
- ❖ M160/M173 splits as written T/B in unison
- ❖ M212 Amazing Grace to be sung by Project Sing and Cantiamo ladies only
- ❖ M213 Mass Choir sings Haleluya
- ❖ M 245 Project Sing will sing semi-chorus Kyrie, Cantiamo will stay on Amazing Grace solo line
- ❖ M278 top line = Project Sing in 2 part split, middle two staves = mass choir in 4-part split, bottom line = Cantiamo
- ❖ M292 Mass Choir singers, Split = S1/S2/A on second line T1/T2/B on third line

Pronunciation Guide:

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison

[kirie eleizon, kriste]

Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona, di thabile kaofela.

[haléluja pelotsa rona, di tabile kaofela]

Ke Morena Jeso, ya re dumeletseng,

[ke morena jeso ja re dumeletsen]

Ya re dumeletseng ho tsamaisa evangedi.

[ja re dumeletsen ho tsamaisa evandzedi]

Siya hamb'ekukhanyen' kwenkos

[sija hambekukanyen kwenkos]

Siya hamba

[sija hamba]

Adjustments for IPA symbols:

o = open oh, use oh lips and say ah
dz = “j” as in Jennifer

Bobobo, trad. African arr. Kathy Armstrong

These unison call and response lines are accompanied by Baobab Tree Youth Performers and involve choreography that will be introduced during our workshop together. The following is a pronunciation guide for the songs. Memorizing this piece will allow the Mass choir to participate fully in the bobobo suite.... And you will *want* to participate fully! ☺

Pronunciation guide:

Bobo miado dali ame no tsitre medoa dalio

[bobo mjado dali ame no chitre medoa dalio]

Susoea awo

[suswea awo]

Ama ee, amama, ama oo, amama

[ama e amama ama o amama]

Ko maga yi

[ko maga ji]

mano efe ducime, matso miabo da doefe dome ducime

[mano efe dusime, macho mjabo da defe dome dusime]

ay novi nye e me gatsi dzo, o

[ai novi nje e me gachi dzo o]

e la van yo e yata konu makpola ha!

[e la van jo e jata konu makpola ha!]

Ayelevi no kulo mido baba naye

[ajelevi no kulo mido baba naijele]

IPA symbol adjustments

ts in ewe language= “ch” as in cheek

dz = “J” as in Jennifer

[j] = “y” as in yes

[i] = “ee” as in see

[e] = “ay” as in chaotic

[u] = “oo” as in soon

[ɛ] = “eh” as in set

[a] = “ah” as in pasta (bright)

Akakombowera, by Lee Kessleman

This piece is taken from a larger work and is based on the ordinary of the mass.

Rhythmically, the music is challenging to learn, but repetition makes for memorability and when all of the layers (percussion included) are put together, it is worth it! ☺

Singers will move in a gentle shuffle step in performance to help physicalize the pulse. In an effort to internalize the pulse in your learning, I offer a strategy that seems to work well for my singers: put your hand on your chest – flat palm – and with one or two fingers gently feel the eighth note tick. Keep this going as you read or sing in rhythm so that you feel the subdivision of the eighth note pulse on all notes. For example, the first word you sing, feel 3 ticks or eighths on the first syllable. This should help feel pulse on all tied notes through the piece.

Though the arrangement is written for treble voices, men can sing parts in their own octave...

The roadmap:

- At A (m.5): all voices in unison
- At B: S/T on top line, A/B on bottom line
- At C: Sop on top line, A/T bottom line, top note (b), B on bottom line, lowest note
- At D: Top line = Project Sing, Cantiamo, All Sops on second line, A/T on third line, top note, B on third line lowest note
- At E: all sops on top line, Altos/Tenors on second line, Basses on bottom line – to the end of the piece

There is a pronunciation guide in the score that works well.

Please Note:

- All of the Mass Choir Project Pieces have been posted as midi files on the WFS website, www.woodstockfanshawesingers.ca for your use in preparing for Saturday, May 5th! We are extremely grateful to one of our choristers, Doug Richards for his dedication to this project. Please take full advantage of such a useful rehearsal tool to ensure comfort and confidence with the repertoire.

Kaleid 2007 is sure to be an exciting event once again! I am SO looking forward to meeting all of you in person soon and making a joyful noise!

Warmest regards,

Jennifer
Artistic Director
WFS Singers
Kaleid 2007