

Dear Fellow Musicians!

I can't wait to make music with all of you this October! I look forward to being a part of your musical journey and am excited that each and every one of you will become part of mine.

We have work to do. Our job, plain and simple, is to change lives with music. Our lives will certainly be changed through spending time with this amazing choral music, but our main goal will be to impact the people in the audience. We want them leaving the concert with a fuller heart than when they walked in. We want them to leave understanding music's important place in the human experience.

What am I hoping for you, my partners in this endeavor? I want you all to take pride in knowing your hard work has meaning. I want you to realize that when you make music with someone, you are connected to them for life. I hope you come away with new friends and the knowledge that there are musicians from all over the state of Wisconsin that love choral music just as much as you do. What will happen? You're musical family will grow tremendously after our time together.

We have a wonderfully varied collection of pieces to rehearse and then give away as gifts to our audience! Here are a few bits of information that might help you as you prepare for the festival.

### ***How Can I Keep from Singing* arr. by Gwyneth Walker**

Our opener - an arrangement of a classic American tune. This one can set the room on fire! It moves and has an unending energy about it. When you get to the la la la section, be sure your initial Ls are very forward in the mouth and flipped, right behind the top teeth. Enjoy the contrasts in this piece! Pay close attention to the dynamic changes.

### ***Kyrie from the Little Organ Mass* - F. Joseph Haydn**

One of my favorites! Not much text - but how often do you sing in Greek? You have three words to worry about - Kyrie, Christe, and eleison. Make sure they are pure vowels. Kee-ree-eh eh-ley-zohn. Kree-steh eh-ley-zohn. The "s" in eleison will be pronounced as a z. This music has to dance. Don't think because it's over 200 years old that you'll break it!

### ***Verleih' uns Frieden* by Felix Mendelssohn**

Wow! Another one of my favorite pieces of all time - and we'll do it in German. A few quick things about German - when the letters E and I go walking, the last one does the talking. That means if you have the vowel combination "ei," it's pronounced like our word "eye." If you have the vowel combination "ie," it's pronounced "ee." Initial Vs are pronounced as Fs.

There isn't a lot of German to learn and it will come quickly. The opening should be sung by all basses and tenors who are able to do so. When the soprano comes in, all sopranos and altos will sing while the counter melody is sung by all tenors and basses. Every phrase rises and falls.

Give yourselves permission to be German. Here's a link of me reading the text:

<https://goo.gl/z67Vum>

### ***Gentle Annie* arr. by Thomas Juneau**

This might be our hardest piece! Thankfully, the publisher provides learning files - so know your notes! You can find them here: <http://www.carlfischer.com/shop/gentle-annie.html>

This is a beautiful arrangement of an American tune written by Pennsylvania composer, Stephen Foster. Dr. Juneau's arrangement is hauntingly beautiful. Really spend some time with this. Get the notes ahead of time and will make some gorgeous music when we get together. Be very clear with the text.

### ***Uphill* by Melissa Keylock and Jill Friedersdorf**

This was arranged FOR YOU! You will be the first choir to bring this work to life. Your ensemble name will appear in the published work. How cool is that!? The work is in 12/8 - and I'll conduct it in four. Feel the running eighth notes as 4 groups of three - ONE-two-three FOUR-five-six SEVEN-eight-nine TEN-eleven-twelve. Watch when duples (labeled with bracketed 2s) happen. Also keep an eye out for eighth-notes tied to other eighth-notes. We'll talk about releases when we are together - but most of the time, if there is a rest after a long note, put your final consonant there. Sometimes we'll have to add a rest to make that work.

### ***Walkin' Jerusalem* arr. by Rollo Dilworth**

What can I say about Dr. Dilworth's arrangement? It's just awesome. We will have some movement on this one. Take a listen/look at Dr. Dilworth conducting this work. It will give you a pretty good idea of where we will go with this work:

<https://goo.gl/Yk4wjZ>

Friends, I'm not sure how I will concentrate in my own rehearsals here at Seton Hill University! I'll be constantly thinking about our time together! Thank you so much in advance for your advance preparation. It will make the festival all the more meaningful for both us and our audiences.

See you in October!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. B". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dr. B