

## Choral Score Preparation

1. Read editor's notes that may be available
2. Look up information about the composer and the piece
3. Inform yourself about stylistic characteristics of the period
4. Read the text
5. Highlight in one color meter and meter changes, tempo and tempo changes
6. Highlight in another color dynamics and other interpretive marks (e.g., *dolce*)
7. Mark entrances that will require cuing
8. Study each voice part
9. Study the relationships between parts – mark unique treatments (e.g., canonic movement)
10. Student the accompaniment (if present). Look for musical connections between voices and accomp.
11. Study the harmonic relationships: mark unique treatments such as suspensions; highlight key changes
12. Examine the relationship between text and music

## Planning for Choral Conducting Experiences

**Plan for the “choir’s” learning the piece well in 4-5 sessions. Here are some general approaches to teaching choral music:**

- Think about how you want the piece to sound in the end and work backwards from that goal. In other words, how will you achieve the sound you want?
- Instruct on form, repeat marks and other significant interpretive or structural indications (*e.g., subito p, sequence*).
- Have choir read the text as poetry and consider the relationship of the words and music. This is important. The difference between instrumental music and choral music is TEXT. Don't overlook the importance of the text.
- Have the choir learn an easy section well so that there is a quick connection made to the piece.
- Break down harder sections into learnable parts.
- Consider working from the end of the piece to the beginning.
- Consider balance of parts: voice to voice, voice to accompaniment
- Continue to study all parts and their relationships so that you aid your interpretation, increase your choir members' musicality, and improve your ability to detect errors.
- When you conduct, forget yourself and listen to the sounds. It's not about you. It's about the music.

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