

ACDA-MN 4.5.6 Girls Honor Choir 2023
NOTES & INFORMATION from your Honor Choir Director
– Mrs. Michelle Gehrz

Dear Singer,



CONGRATULATIONS on being selected for the **ACDA-MN 4.5.6 Girls Honor Choir!**

I am already very proud of you and can't wait to meet you and spend the day making music with you on Saturday, April 29.

I had so much fun picking music for this special event. I love each song so much! I wonder which one will become YOUR favorite!?

YOU are part of a fantastic TEAM of singers for this event. YOU were selected because you have a TALENT and LOVE for singing! Make sure to work hard to prepare by listening to the practice tracks, studying and memorizing your music, and listening to the YouTube playlist of performances of the selected pieces you will be learning. I bet we will sound even better than some of these choirs!

Practice Tracks: can be found at <https://mnhonorchoirs.org/4-5-6-honor-choirs-2022-23-select/>

YouTube Playlist link to listen to other choir performances of our songs:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLimKlsyswFaKvVNO1Rp5dY6G4H8b8NFT>

See you on Saturday, April 29!

With a song in my heart,
Mrs. Gehrz



Dear Music Teacher, Choir Director, and Parents,

As you prepare to assist your young singer with the challenge of learning AND memorizing FIVE SONGS for our May 2 Honor Choir event, [please refer to the following notes, share them with your singer and MARK their music with these details.](#) It will help the singers to be the best prepared that they can for the big day. Thank you in advance for assisting your amazing, young singer with this learning process.

Have fun getting to know the music along with your singer!

Michelle Gehrz ☺

IMPORTANT!!! Singers, please refer to the seating chart for which voice part you will sing. For those of you that auditioned as Soprano 2 it is especially important as your section will sometimes be split in two parts and labeled differently.

Cantamos! (We Sing!) by James M. DesJardins

Think of this song as “a dance of strength, power, and beauty” that celebrates the power of singing with and for others!

- ***This song is a 2-part split/divisi:***
Sop 1 and Sop 2 follow the top music staff (Part 1)
Sop 2/Alto 1 and Alto 2 follow the bottom music staff (Part 2)
- Listen to practice tracks for Spanish pronunciation.
- p. 8, m. 31 – the word “the” before the word “artist” should be pronounced as “thee”
- Hand Claps: YES, we will do the claps!
- Articulation for this song is usually a bouncy, light, staccato. EXCEPTIONS: at m. 15-16 this should be legato and at m. 35-36 think more marcato (accented).
- There will be many small occurrences of stress/release OR accent/lighter throughout the piece. EXAMPLES: “vida” = accent *vi*, lighter on *da* OR “strength of” = accent *strength*, lighter on *of*

Fairest Lady by Nick Page

Think of this song as a simple song of childhood... your dreams as a young girl (or a “fairest lady”) perhaps give you comfort and a feeling of safety OR your dreams can give you wings to fly, explore, and become the next version of yourself!

- ***This song is a 2-part split/divisi beginning on page 4:***
Sop 1 and Sop 2 follow the top music staff (labeled in the music as *Descant*)
Sop 2/Alto 1 and Alto 2 follow the bottom music staff (labeled in the music as *Melody*)
- **Lots of details in this song! Here are a few to mark in your music:**
m. 9 – give a strong F consonant on “fairest” every time
m. 11 & m. 27 – quick lift after “lady” (and later for Alto part)
m. 12 & m. 28 – tall AH vowel as you hold the word “eyes” (and later for Alto part)
m. 14 & m. 30 – make “sleep” into a quarter note followed by a quarter rest (and later for Alto part)
m. 15 & m. 31 – no breath between “dreams” and “oh” (and later for Alto part)
m. 22 – no breath between “a-wake” and “you”
m. 24 – quick lift with Z consonant from “arise” on + of beat 4
p. 3-5 – on all the “fly away” melodies please place accent/stress on “fly” and lighter on “away”
m. 43 – no breath going from m. 43 into m. 44
m. 44 & m. 50 – quick lift after “lady”
m. 70-72 – observe the quiet/piano marking! AND, no breath between “slumbers” and “kiss”
m. 74 – no breath between “wake” and “you”
m. 76-77 – Top line/Sopranos – no breath from “a-rise” to “Oh.” Breathe AFTER the “Oh.”

Letter From a Girl to the World by Andrea Ramsey

Think of this song as a wish or dream for YOUR future!

- ***This song is a 4-part split/divisi:***
Follow the A2, A1, S2, S1 markings for your specific music staff.
Sometimes another part will sing with you on your music staff.
ALTOS, please note – “tum, tum, tum” is Alto 2 and “tu, tu” is Sop 2/Alto 1
- “Tum” is pronounced toom (rhymes with boom!)
- I will give you singers a chance to create your own wishes for the speaking parts on p. 12-13. Be thinking of great things you might want to share!
- Heads up! ... p. 7, m. 28 TOP line “Have you said the words out loud” is only sung by Sop2. The Sop1 part waits to come in at m. 29 “We want to hear.”

The Paint Box by Kobi Oshrat/arr. Ben Allaway

This text was written by a 12-year-old Israeli girl. She was surrounded by war and conflict when she wrote these words. The colors remind her of certain things, but ultimately, she wanted to paint ‘peace.’ What would you paint if you were given a paintbox of colors?

- ***This song is a 3-part split/divisi:***
Sop 1 follow the top music staff throughout the piece. At m. 16, take the top notes.
Sop 2 and Sop 2/Alto 1 follow the middle music staff. At m. 16, take the lower notes.
Alto 2 follow the bottom music staff. At m. 16, take the lower notes.
At the end of the piece, last word “peace”, Alto 2 all take the upper note G on your bottom music staff.
- Make sure the word “I” is sung with a nice, tall AH vowel throughout the piece.
- On the words “paint box” always accent/stress the word “paint” and lighter on “box”
- m. 20 – Alto – the C is a C# in that measure (to match the piano part)
- m. 22 – Sop2 – no breath between “white” and “no”
- m. 23-24 – Sop1 – no breath between “white” and “oh”
- m. 33 – all voices – quick lift after the word “colors”
- p. 7 – how to pronounce the word “orange”?? OH – RUNJ (rhymes with No Sponge)
- m. 43 – Sop1 – breath after the word “life”
- m. 44-45 – all voices – no breath between m. 44 and m. 45, then all lift after the word “green” on m. 45
- m. 46 – all voices – breath together after the word “bloom”
- m. 49 – all voices – lift/breath after the word “skies”
- m. 57- all voices – put the T of “light” on beat

Just Be Happy by PinkZebra

This song is pure happiness! When life gets tough or you are having a bad day, you can choose to be happy. Smile. Laugh. Sing. Let the music play!

- ***This song is a unison, 2-part and 3-part split/divisi:***
This song has sections that are Unison, 2-part split, or 3-part split.
Section A through Section C – voices in Unison, all take the high note at m. 50
Section D – Sop 1 as labeled, Sop 2/Alto 1 take upper notes of bottom staff, Alto 2 take lower notes of bottom staff
Section E through Section J – Sop 2/Alto 1 will sing with the Sop 1 on the top staff, Alto 2 follows the bottom staff
Section K – Sop 1 as labeled, Sop 2/Alto 1 take upper notes of bottom staff, Alto 2 take lower notes of bottom staff
- Claps... we will do some sort of clapping where marked. It might not be what's written!
- Be ready to have fun and move your body a bit while you sing this one!! 😊