

## REHEARSAL NOTES

### 1. Nakutakia Siku Njema!:

This delightful opener is all about rhythm; textual as well as musical. It is in three parts. The Sopranos and Altos should sing the S1 and Alto parts. The Soprano 2 part should be populated with a few very courageous members from both the Soprano and Alto sections.

In the text there are two words (Njema & Mwrite) that start with unusual double consonants. "Njema" always comes after "siku" or "safari", so the "n" sound can actually attach to the "u" or "i" sound of the preceding word. "Mwrite" is not so easy. It should sound basically like "moo-ee-teh". Work to make all the syncopated rhythms very brisk and edgy.

### 2. Agnus Dei:

This beautiful piece is all about shape and tone. Every phrase must communicate an arc-shaped thought, with specific weight used to provide the destination. The rehearsal notes on pages 10 and 11 are very good and very useful.

Please be very careful to pronounce the "i" vowels like "ee" and the "e" vowels like "eh". This is especially important in the word "Dei". It should be "deh-ee". (There is no "a" sound, like "stay", in Latin...EVER!) Additionally, "miserere" should be pronounced "mee-seh-reh-reh", using a flipped "L" sound for the consonant "r".

### 3. Angels In The Early Morning:

What a great piece to explore the ideas of "similar" and "contrasting". There are smooth phrases and bouncy phrases. There are loud and soft dynamics, sometimes within the same phrases. And the poetry is rather fun as well!

Keep the mouths very open and eyebrows up high on the long notes. Work to keep the tone beautiful from top to bottom of the voice. Practice making different expressions with your face; "startled", "surprised", "impressed", etc.

### 4. Springfield Mountain:

Like so many folksongs, this New England tune, probably borrowed from a Western European heritage, tells a story. The rehearsal notes on the inside cover are very useful. On the last three measure, Sopranos, please learn the top notes. I will assign the bottom notes on site.

### 5. The Rattlin' Bog:

This "accumulative" song is just such fun to sing. The Altos have the melody throughout the entire piece. The sopranos have a descant-style harmony part on the 2<sup>nd</sup> refrain and each refrain after that. The only thing that is tricky is the augmentation in the coda. This time, Sopranos, please learn the BOTTOM notes. I will assign the top notes on site. Be careful not to let it get too fast. It loses the "fun" if it gets faster than 100.