

REHEARSAL NOTES for March 10, 2025

Hello Singers,

Check Lance's email on March 8 for changes to O Brother. Please mark everything in your score.

Kudos to all auditioning for solos! When we're nervous, any pause can feel like a year, and we may have a tendency to rush through rests. That will put you out of sync with Richard. Listen carefully to the accompaniment so your entrances are right on, and count.

How you practice makes all the difference. Work with the tracks at home – out loud, with your score. Just listening will only help you to *sort of* remember your part, leading to mistakes, and it won't help you in rehearsal when all you have is an unfamiliar score.

Lift your eyebrows and cheekbones, separate your back teeth. Your voice is important and we need your fullest sound.

Did you know you can slow down the tracks? If they're going too fast for you, do this: Go to townesingers.org/choir-resources. Find the learning track and part you need. Open it. In the lower left corner, next to the play button, click on **1.0x**, then choose **0.75x**. Voilà!

This boxed section will be different every week, and notes on individual pieces below. **My latest rehearsal notes are in BLUE.** Notes from past weeks will be in BLACK. **Items which need a reminder, return to blue.** Remember, if Lance talks about it, it's important!

Here's what we worked on (in blue). Please mark *something* in your music for each of these items (see **MARKING YOUR MUSIC** below), and for everything Lance conducts or speaks about.

ALL STAR Key of F

- ALL: - Practice singing this with a "high-brow" diction and tone. Be solid to M.34.
M.1 - Lower parts, circle the rest.
- ALTO: M.3 - ' after world, bracket the next [the world's. No breath between Ms. 3 & 4. Mark ^ .
- ALL: M.5 - The dots above the notes are *staccati*. Sing them very short. Same in M.13
M.7 - Put a fat ending D on the Beat 4 rest. Keep that going through the piece.
- ALTO: M.10 - ' after first 'dumb'; bracket [looking dumb.
M.18 - Altos, get your entrance note from the Bass's E on 'start'.
- TEN: M.18 - Be ready for your entrance. Listen for the other parts' 'fed to the-'.
M.24 - ' after 'smart'. Pronounce a clear 'but your', not as 'becher'.
- ALL: M.29 - Delay or leave out the ending 's'.
Pg.7 - "Sing the punctuation". Small breaks after each comma.

BLUE SKIES (C minor →) Eb

- ALL: - Solo to M.25.

CAN'T STOP THE FEELING Key of Bb

Here's Justin Timberlake's video of the soundtrack from Trolls: <https://youtu.be/ru0K8uYEZWw>
Rhythms are exactly what we're singing and Justin will help you find the groove, or "feel" of the rhythm.
The same, from the movie: <https://youtu.be/oWgTqLCLLE8k?t=3>

SOLO: M.4 -

ALL: M.13 - Spit out the consonants; precise rhythms. **Be on top of the beat.**

Pg.4 - **Be strict with all your cut-offs; they inform the rhythm.** Solidify all rhythms & entrances.

S&A: M.21 - SAA split – All Sopranos on top, Alto1 in Middle, Alto2 on bottom.

T&B: M.22 - The 8th rest is on Beat 3.

ALTO: M.27 - Check your part on 'just imagine' with the track.


ALL: M.28 - Crescendo. <

TEN: M.29 - Cross out the D, go to the C and sing the Bass part, .

ALL: M.37 - Add a tied quarter note to '-ing', then cut OFF.

Pg.6 - Work with the tracks at home to learn your part from Pg.6 to the end.

ROAD MAP: Sing through M.48, then

Go back to M.13 on pg.3. (Draw in brackets at the repeat sign. )

2nd time, Sing Ms. 13 - 39, jump to 2nd ending at M.49 and sing to the end.

HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD Key of F

S&A: M.3 - SSA split. Sop2, bring out your part on this page. All, sing full at *f* volume.

T&B: M.4 - TTB split. Ten2, bring out your part on this page. All, sing full at *f* volume.

ALL: - **Mind your cut-offs. Put a nice fat 'D'** on the endings of each 'Hollywood'. Write it in on the next rest.

M.7 - Pronounce it 'HOO-ray', not 'Hrrr-ay.

M8 - No breath between Ms. 8 & 9, **draw in** . We never breathe in the middle of a word.

M.9 - The C marking means Lance will conduct 2 fast beats per measure. They'll go by fast.

M.23 - Solidify your C# entrance note.

S&A: M.31 - Cut OFF after the 2 fast beats, so the Tenor & Bass entrance is in the clear.

BASS: M.37 - Work on landing on the D, higher than you think.

S&A: M.65 - SSA split.

ALL: M.71 - Cross out the rest of the piece.

LA LA LAND

I hope this video recreation of La La Land will help give you some ease with the rhythms (starts at 0:46):
https://youtu.be/Z2_Nhc8HHVE?t=46

ALL: - **Sing 'Lah lah...'**, not '**luh luh**'. Leave your jaw released and pronounce each 'lah' with your tongue.

- Be accurate with all the syncopation (off-the-beat rhythms).

S&A: M.19 - "Make space" & open up *before* you sing.

ALL: M.25 - C means Lance will conduct 2 half-note beats per bar. The measures will go by very fast.

M.26 - The little dots below or above some notes are 'staccati'. Clip these and sing them short.

The little lines below or above some notes are 'tenutos'. Sing them for their full value.

M.39 - 'We' is anticipated, i.e. early. Mark something, like an accent >

T&B M.43 - How to find your note? The Altos just sang it on 'was'.

TEN: M.45 - The practice track has an error; the note on 'had to' is a D#, higher than he sings. Mark ↑.

BASS: M.54 - Mark an arrow up↑ on those Cs.

ALL: M.56 - Pronounce it '**veel**', not 'wull'. Same in M.61, sing '**heel**', not 'hill'.

- M.61 - Hard ee on 'he'll'. Breath after 'down', then mark no breath from Ms.62 – 65.
 M.68 - 'heights' is very short, cut off. Mark something, like //.
 M.72 - Breath before 'the'.
 T&B: M.75 - The dotted quarter note here and in M.79 is longer. Go over rhythm & mark → .
 ALL: M.88 - After M.88, jump to M.136 on Pg.14
 M.136 - The dotted note on 'to' is longer. Mark → if you missed.
M.137- Circle the rest, put a tiny 'z' on the rest or leave it out. Same at M.145
 M.140 - Circle and honor the rest. Put the 'sh' on the rest.
 Pg.15 - Watch Lance for tempo changes in middle & bottom systems. Faster at M.154.
 M.171 - Dotted 1/4 on '-els' is longer (keep vowel open). Mark →. No breath Ms.170 – 173. Mark ^

O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?

- ALL: - At the top, we'll add in an *a cappella* selection from Ms.34 – 39, then back to beginning (at the repeat sign). Sop & Alto, write the added notes in from Lance's March 8 email. Altos, cross out the first 'fly away' in M.34.
 M.18 - This section is now a Duo.
 M.24 - Here, and in Ms.32 & M.48, 'a-way' is very short. Cut **OFF** with Lance //.
 M.37 - Mark a breath after 'glory'. Mark no breath between Ms. 38 & 39.
 M.43 - Go over the rhythm in Ms. 43-44.
 M.49 - We won't repeat the I'll Fly Away section. Go straight to M.53. Cross out Ms. 50-52.
 M.61 - If you're auditioning for solos, go over rhythms carefully. NOT all straight quarter notes.
 M.85 - Go over the rhythms here, NOT all straight quarter notes.
 M.101 - We'll skip 2 pages and go from Ms. 101 to 140.
M.140- Sing 'down IN the river'. In the movie, baptisms are performed IN the river.
 M.144 - Breath after 'way', no breath between 'wear the starry...'
 M.146 - Breath after 'crown', no breath between 'Lord' & 'show me the way'.
 - At end of Down To The River, SAA split, and TBB split (all Tenors on top, Baritones in the middle, Bass on the bottom).
 M.150 - Breath after 'down'.
 BASS: M.154 - Anywhere you have those low F's, don't try to "sing" them too much, or you could just get air. Speak the word aloud first, then *speak the word on the pitch, very forward in the mouth.* Try a little duck-face to get the feel of having it be "forward".
 SOP: M.155 - Change your C on 'to' to a D. Make the same change in M.172 and M.189.
 S&A M.157 - Soprano only to begin. Altos enter in M.158.
 ALL: M.162 - No breath between 'wear' & 'the'.
 M.168 - No breath between 'down' & come on'.
 M.175 - SAA and TBB split.
 S&A: M.178 - Ignore the stems! S1 on all top notes, A1 on melody middle notes, A2 on bottom notes.
 ALL: M.179 - Mark no breath between 'wear' & 'the'.
 ALTO: Pg.16 - Bring out your melody part.
 ALL: M.184 - Breath after 'down'.
 M.185 - No breath between 'down' & 'don't'.
 M.187 - No breath between 'sinners' & 'lets'. Breath after 'down'.
 M.234 - Repeat back to M.211. (This section will be a male trio.)
 M.274 - Female trio from Ms.274. Choir in at M.290, Trio unison on Alto part.

THE PINK PANTHER

- A&S: M.11 - Beat 3 is the 1st note of the triplet. Write in a 3 or |||, whatever works for you.
 M.27 - SAA split (divisi).

ALL: - Work this at home with tracks.

PURE IMAGINATION

ALL: M.9 - No male solo now.

M.10 - 'be' is 3 beats. Draw in →. No breath between 'be' & 'in a'. Draw an arc.

T&B: M.16 - Add all Basses & Tenors. Pronounce it 'weel'.

M.20 - Pronounce 'we'll' as weel'.

SOP: M.25 - Up high, maintain space. Leave your jaw open and pronounce gently in the front of the mouth.

ALL: M.25 - No breath between Ms. 25 & 26. Mark an arc between them to connect.

M.26 - Delay the ending 's' or leave it out. Sing 'par-a-daahhh---simply'.

S&A: M.27 - SAA split on '-round': All Sopranos on top note, Alto1 in middle, Alto2 below.

ALL: M.29 - "Wet" Ts on 'wanT To'. Draw in large Ts. ' after 'to', then bracket [do it.

M.30 - Bracket [do. Hold out 'it', cut off on Beat 4. 'ihh → T'. Draw in the 'T' on the rest.

S&A: M.32 - SAA split on 'to it'.

ALL: M.38 - **Breath after 'there'. Mark ' . Sing 'yooo'll be free if you truly' in one breath; mark a long arc ^ over.**

M.39 - 'Free' is 3 beats. Draw in →. No breath especially between 'free' & 'if'.

M.41 - Circle and observe the rest.

T&B M.64 - Sing 'sen-sa-SHAHHHn', not 'sen-sa-SHIN'. Bring out diction.

ALL: M.70 - ' after 'dreamer', bracket and emphasize [be one!

M.78 - Catch breath (') after 'go.


M.80 - Circle the breath mark ' . In M.81, no breath between 'there' & 'to.

SPIDERMAN

ALL: M.11 - Here and throughout, learn the rhythms accurately.

I didn't have access to this music, so can't give measure numbers.

- For phrases such as on 'chill of night', spin the energy through 'chill': 'chihhh→ ll'of night'

Also mark  for all such longer notes.

SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE

ALL: M.19 - Go over this rhythm; 'will' & 'own' are short 8th notes.

S&A: Pg.4 - Phrase your 'Ah's.

M.31 - Here, and wherever notes have \ between them, establish the note first before sliding down.

ALTO:M.40 - Your note on 'there' is lower than before; mark ↓.

ALL: M.42 - No breath between '-ven-ture' & 'is you'. Mark an arc ^ between them.

Pg.6 - Go over all the rhythms.

M.66 - No breath between '-ven-ture' & 'is you'. Mark an arc ^ between them.

THIS IS ME

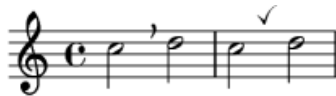
ALL: Work with this video for now, until the tracks are ready:


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nuYMIM6IRo>

**** MARKING YOUR MUSIC ****

Please familiarize yourself with these so you can quickly scribble them into your


music while we rehearse. No need to stop!


Breath mark:  Either one **Catch breath:** (')

No breath (carry over):  Draw an arc above or below. Sing the notes smoothly.

Diction Break: Separate (**re-articulate**) words with brackets to make them clearer and to propel the rhythm: [On! Dan-cer, [On! Prancer ... and] Blitzen!

Stress a syllable: Underline it, or place a tenuto (—) above the note: **hol-ly**

Shaping, phrasing:  CIRCLE all dynamics (*mp, f...*)

Energize: Energize the elongated phrases you sing with a spinny arrow. 

Rit. or Rall.: Both mean Lance will slow down. There are subtle differences, but just circle them and always WATCH LANCE.

Watch: Write in the word, or draw  or 

Open vowels, lifted tone: Tall oval 0

Sing higher or lower on specific pitch or page turn: Arrow UP or DOWN.

CIRCLE everything you miss even once. You can erase it later!

Measure numbers – These are above or below the choral lines. Add more if it helps.

*** **Where's my part?** Mark something on or highlight each line you sing. An arrow will do, or circle the clef.

[**This is a Choral Bracket,** indicating where we sing.

{ **This is the piano part.**

Anything else may be an instrumental or solo; in any case, we only sing within the [.

Whatever you choose to mark, it should make your score less confusing, not cluttered, and help you keep your head out of your music. Whatever makes sense to you is fine.

MORE ON MARKING:

<http://sacramentochoral.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Score-Marking-Guide.pdf>

<http://notesfromtheconductor.wordpress.com/markings-your-score/>

<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/5601bcf5e4b061985f6733e5/t/5669fc5d57eb8d3974355622/1449786461144/Marking+Your+Score.pdf> (nerds only :-)

See you next week!

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