



MYSTIC CHORALE FALL 2024 KEEP MARCHING

KATIE'S SWEET SHEET #2 (rev. 9/29)

9/24 ALTO SECTIONAL & CHORUS REHEARSAL

Hello Altos!

Contained herein are changes & additions Mike made at the alto sectional & chorus rehearsal 9/24. Tricky parts & road maps were further clarified & as I suggested he encouraged everyone to choose a part & stick with it for the rest of the season. I provide here a summary of my thoughts on each of the songs discussed. I've also prepared a song diagram for Quia ergo femina that might be helpful if you're a visual learner or don't read music. Notes about Quia ergo femina follow. My recommended YouTube playlist of all 10 songs appears below.

NEW!

Alto Resources page -

ALTO LYRICS, KATIE'S SWEET SHEET #1 – SUMMARY OF 9/17 *impromptu* ALTO ZOOM MEETING, Honor the Dark Road Map, YouTube videos – Hark! Alto 1 & 2 keyboard track, Revised Keep Marching sheet music with assigned parts

- [Keep Marching notes from Mike](#)
- [Honor the Dark notes from Katie Dunton calling out Groups 1-4](#)
- [Download the alto lyrics for this season](#)
- [Zoom meeting summary for Sept. 17](#)
- [Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal – Alto 1 – Keyboard Only](#)
- [Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal – Alto 2 – Keyboard Only](#)

My Seasons page -

Practice Audios: Honor the Dark ROAD MAP, original artist performance with my comments; Closer to Fine, original artist performance with my comments (Original lyrics video link below); Would You Harbor Me? Additional practice audios with exact notes & rhythm for ENDING – note that the harmony expands & there are 6 total soprano & alto parts

COMING SOON! (&/or emailed to you already)

Practice Audios: Keep Marching, Quia ergo femina (without low drone)

Additional Resources: Quia ergo femina song diagram

Let me know if you need me to email or bring printed copies of any documents to rehearsal. I'll also have copies at my music review pot lucks, the first of which is TODAY 9/29 12:30-3, pot luck lunch followed by music review. If you plan to come to the review only, try to arrive about 1:15.

My practice audios are complete & most are posted on the Mystic site. If you want me to email or text you any practice audios let me know. I'm really pumped about learning the repertoire & pulling it all together! If you have comments or questions, call/text 857-756-5023, email katieteetotaler@gmail.com, message me at <https://www.facebook.com/katie.dunton.5>, talk to

me at rehearsal, tape a note to my front door, put a note under my windshield wiper (turquoise 2012 Honda Fit Sport), or any other way you might think of to reach out. (Incidentally, I buy various types of Scotch Tape in bulk if you need any.)

Happy singing!



Katie

HONOR THE DARK p. 14

The sheet music is confusing, so here are a couple things to know.

- Parts listed are more like proper names than an actual indication of the chorus voice part you sing. Forget about whether it says alto, tenor, etc. Song is in low key so altos have our pick of ANY of the 8 lines. Now's the time to watch the Lea Morris video, choose part you want to sing & stick with it
- The song isn't a round, but has a canon type of sound due to overlapping phrases coming in at different times. Here's the road map:
 1. Bottom 2 lines (labeled tenor & bass melody) start song & sing their line (pp. 14-17) 4 times
 2. Top line (labeled sopranos) comes in next & sings their line 3 times
 3. Third group sings "butterfly" text (labeled soprano 2 mel 2, alto mel 2 & tenor mel 2) 2 times
 4. Last group (labeled alto 1 & tenor 2) sings their line once
 5. Everyone sings p. 18 together
- What's easy about the piece is it's repetitive & once you know you're particular phrase you sing just that

HONOR THE DARK – Lea Morris – our SATB arrangement

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEztYa9uqKY>

WOULD YOU HARBOR ME p. 19

This is one of several pieces in our program that has both Alto 1 & Alto 2 parts.

- Alto 2 part – piece of cake! If you like the note G & want to take a virtual smoke break in your mind for approximately 3 minutes & 40 seconds, this is the part for you. Alto 2s sing G pretty much the entire song EXCEPT at the end the part veers into different territory starting on p. 24 measure 24. At this point, you should have already snuffed out your virtual cigarette & rejoined the group
- Alto 1 part – more going on in terms of stepping up or down, but also not difficult. Tell your smoking buddies in the Alto 2 section you'll take a rain check. Altos all sing together on G until the top of p. 20, at which point Alto 1s start asserting their independence by moving to B natural (higher than B flat) & snaking around that territory throughout the song. I find this part interesting because of its movement. Be aware of the note changes in each successive repetition of the verses
- Lyrics may at first glance appear daunting BUT the same lyrics repeat over & over, according to 5 groupings, as follows. Each phrase begins with "Would you harbor"

WOULD YOU HARBOR A CHRISTIAN, A MUSLIM, A JEW
A HERETIC, CONVICT OR SPY?

WOULD YOU HARBOR A RUNAWAY WOMAN OR CHILD,
A POET, A PROPHET, A KING?
WOULD YOU HARBOR AN EXILE, OR A REFUGEE,
A PERSON LIVING WITH AIDS?
WOULD YOU HARBOR A TUBMAN, A GARRETT, A TRUTH
A FUGITIVE OR A SLAVE?
WOULD YOU HARBOR A HAITIAN KOREAN OR CZECH,
A LESBIAN OR A GAY?

- Ending starts on p. 24, at which point lyrics change to "Would you harbor me? Would I harbor you?" etc. Important to note here that all Altos sing reverse of everyone else starting on p. 25 measure 25, when we sing "Would I harbor you?" twice in a row. Altos end on "me" while the rest of the chorus is on "you" – VERY COOL!

WOULD YOU HARBOR ME? – The Choral Project – our SATB arrangement

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

CROWDED TABLE p. 35

This anthem starts with a verse which alternates between tenors & basses, altos & sopranos. We went over the refrain, rhythms & ending.

- Tenors & basses start on p. 35
- Altos & sopranos sing p. 36 & not again until refrain at bottom of p. 37
- Refrain is tricky because it includes 2 sets of triplets (which sounds like an expensive family to care for, but it's not that bad). When you listen to the recording, alto part is very prominent
- Watch out for a fake out on pp. 43-44! After "Everyone's a little broken" there's a measure & a half of rests before page turn. Then POW! Right at top of p. 44 we're singing. I suggest marking in your music on p. 43 something that indicates what's coming up next
- Refrain repeats 3 times – p. 37 measure 25, p. 41 measure 57 & p. 44 measure 84
- Ending (pp. 46-48) dramatically closes the piece by stretching out note duration of "and bring us back together when the day is done" phrases to give us that big, feel-good finish (which will of course garner copious applause & probably some tears)

CROWDED TABLE – Coastal Sound Choirs – our SATB arrangement

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

QUIA ERGO FEMINA p. 49

This piece is oldest one in our repertoire, I'm talking ANCIENT (composer Hildegard von Bingen lived 1098-1179). It's our concert walk-on song & various sections will be performed by soloists, a small group & the chorus.

- I suggest familiarizing yourself with the whole piece, to get a feel for Gregorian Chant style – unison (no harmony), free/flexible rhythm, melancholy sound
- Notation – although pitches are present, length of time notes are held & which ones are stressed is somewhat fluid
- See my Quia ergo femina diagram for clearer visual representation of melody movement
- It's in Latin, probably most similar in pronunciation to Italian I would say

QUIA ERGO FEMINA – Ensemble Mediatrix
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sictMIW-QxE>

CLOSER TO FINE p. 51

If you don't know this Indigo Girls song from the 90s, you might recognize it from the Barbie movie soundtrack.

- GOOD NEWS! Altos have melody for entire song
- MORE GOOD NEWS! The notes in the sheet music virtually the same as original recording
- Altos start at refrain on p. 54 & sing through to the end
- All 3 refrains are the same, except extended one at the end. (This means on p. 54, note for doCTOR & CHILDREN should go down to C# not stay on D)

CLOSER TO FINE – Indigo Girls lyrics video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HWW5hq4Bh8>

HARK! I HEAR THE HARPS ETERNAL p. 71

This is a 19th century New England 18th Sacred Harp hymn. It has Alto 1 & Alto 2 parts.

- Alto 1 is fun but tricky & gets very HIGH in spots (or at least higher than most altos would prefer) – specifically p. 74 measure 28, p. 77 measure 45 & p. 78 measure 54. I've inquired about Soprano 2s helping us out on those occasions
- Alto 2 part is simple & straightforward, consisting almost exclusively of the note F – if you're in need of another virtual smoke break, it's time to break out the pack

HARK! I HEAR THE HARPS ETERNAL – Reinhardt University Concert Choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVrK34BKazg>

Pieces we didn't go over 9/24:

BREAD AND ROSES – sung by Judy Collins
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsvGPj0LH0M>

KEEP MARCHING – Original Broadway Cast
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPYKqoRKT8g>

LOVE IS LIKE A BUTTERFLY – Dolly Parton
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N057bnM44UM>

PATA PATA – Miriam Makeba – original 1966 recording
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBJVVhn7iuo>