



# Songs of Joy

## Third and Fourth Grade Choir

Somerset Elementary School

December 10, 2015

### Let Us Sing Together . . . . . Czech folk song

If a pun is a play on words, then this song is a musical pun. “Let us sing together, one and all a joyful song.” As the song breaks into its round parts, the music will cleverly overlap into unison singing on the phrase, “one and all”. The choristers were surprised the first time they sang it as a round and heard the unison singing emerge in the middle of a round!

### Hallelu . . . . . Israeli folk song

This lovely three-part round begins in a low register for a young singer. As each phrase climbs higher, the song grows in both harmony and intensity. This was a challenging round for the choir. As the choristers listen to the harmony thicken, some may begin to sway to keep the beat.

### Music, Music, Music! . . . . . Weiss and Baum

The choristers remind us why this top hit pop song from 1950 is one of their favorites: “All I want is loving you and music, music, music!” In rehearsal, some choristers created a spontaneous, bouncing aerobic dance while singing with happy (and breathless) smiles. Singing with friends is one of life’s simple joys.

Jubilate Deo. . . . . Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

This round is by a famous German composer from the Renaissance period. Rounds and canons were the “pop” songs of that time. Written on a wide variety of topics, rounds could be about animals, jokes, politics, love, or God. Composers flexed their music muscles by writing these deceptively simple tunes, and contests were held regularly to see who could write the best round. And you thought *American Idol*, *The X Factor*, and *The Voice* were new ideas! We are singing this two-part round in Latin and we are singing it *a capella* which is Italian for “no accompaniment”. This canon can also be a tight round (meaning the second group enters right after the first) or a loose round (the second group waits to enter later). The choristers chose to sing the tight canon for you tonight.

*Piano introduction: Julia Francis and Grace Marek*

Cold and Fugue Season . . . . . J. S. Bach/Ellen Foncannon

This is a parody of Bach's familiar “Fugue in G minor”. Thus, "cold and flu season" becomes "cold and fugue season". A fugue (pronounced *fyooog*) is a type of round with themes that enter in layers on different pitches. These layers are then woven together, and often the fugue has a grand ending. We watched a video clip of a man playing it on a glass harmonium of crystal water glasses. Later we will listen to the Canadian Brass play the fugue and to Bach's original fugue on organ. Several choristers recognized this fugue as spooky music often heard during Halloween. Props and expressive interpretation are the results of creative third and fourth grade minds. Giggles came during a rehearsal when one person really did sneeze!

Thank you to Matthew Schufman, art teacher, for the beautiful student art work.

Thank you for coming tonight.  
May our gift of song lighten way home.  
Kari Peterson  
*Somerset music teacher*

