



Music Performance
Assessments

INTRODUCTION TO THE SELECTIVE MUSIC LIST (SML) FOR MIXED CHORUS

**Approved in July 2024
Updated Annually**

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HOW THE NEW SML WAS IMPLEMENTED IN 2024

The PMEA Selective Music List (SML) for Mixed Chorus was extensively revised and first implemented at PMEA Music Performance Assessments (MPA's) in 2024. It was formally approved in July 2024 and is updated annually.

Directors are strongly recommended to select music to perform at MPA's from this list. Music not currently on the list may be submitted for approval as in the past.

Complete and submit the online 'Selective Music List Requests Form' to ask this and other common questions concerning repertoire to perform at an MPA, especially those that will continue to emerge for many years while implementing a newly revised list. Those questions will likely include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Permission to perform a piece not currently on the Selective Music List. Pieces submitted will be considered for approval and assigned a PMEA Grade Level.
- Permission to perform fewer selections within a collection or fewer movements of a multi-movement piece at a lower grade level instead of the entire piece at the grade level listed. This opportunity expands flexibility for ensembles to perform one or more selections or movements at a lower grade level to expose more students to an amount of music that they might not be able to perform in its entirety at that time.
- Permission to perform other selections within a collection or movements of a given piece than currently listed. The listing for some pieces already indicates specific selections or movements to be performed at a designated grade level. Directors may propose changing the movements involved and the resulting grade level.
- Request to change the current grade level assigned to a given piece. Directors may propose that a given piece be reviewed for possible reclassification at a different grade level, lower or higher.

An ongoing goal will be to identify review the pieces and collections to determine what ensembles can realistically prepare and perform at an appropriate grade level in the MPA setting. This initial compilation includes larger works or collections with an extremely wide range among the source lists concerning what choruses are required to perform for an MPA. Enabling more pieces to be more accessible by more students is a feature of quality lists that we feel should also be a priority in Pennsylvania. We encourage directors to propose options to help shape what works best for Pennsylvania choruses today and moving forward.

Another ongoing goal is for each listing to be complete and accurate in spelling, including first and last names of composers and arrangers, publishers involved, voicing(s), accompaniment or a cappella, other instruments or accompaniment options, and language. The source lists varied widely in what was included. Please contact me with any corrections needed in content, spelling or to complete any missing aspect of a given listing as well as if a piece is now 'OOP'/'Out of Print' or available only by 'Rental' or 'POD/Print on Demand'.

A quality Selective Music List is one that is always an active 'work in progress', continuously evolving to reflect additions from previously published and new repertoire, refinements in number of movements from a larger

work or selections from a collection that are required, additional listings with options to perform few or different components at a lower grade level, adjustments to assigned grade levels, and ongoing, routine corrections for accuracy.

HOW THE CHORUS SML WAS REVISED

The existing PMEA Selective Music Lists for Band, Orchestra and Chorus were last revised in 1991. Developing the new PMEA Selective Music Lists included the following steps:

- Researched existing state and other recognized lists
- Set aside the existing PMEA SML from 1991 for now to use as a reference and started fresh to develop a new list
- Identified seven high quality selective music lists for Chorus to use as primary source documents: Iowa, Kansas, North Carolina, New York, the Teaching Music Through Performance series, Texas, and Virginia
- Acquired the most recent list available from each source
- Developed an Excel spreadsheet layout and then converted or typed each of the seven source lists along with the pieces submitted by PA directors since 2004 and approved by Dr. Tad Greig from Westminster College for use at PMEA MPA's into a single document to create one master compilation of 7,908 listed titles
- Standardized the data entry formatting and proofed for spelling
- Distilled the master compilation into a format listing each individual title and the rating that each piece received, if any, within each of the 7 source lists and from PMEA
- Determined an initial, official PMEA Rating for each title derived from the ratings each received, if any, within the seven source lists and PMEA, taking into consideration that grade level assignments are not standardized among lists or by publishers. Grading criteria is mostly unavailable.

The official PMEA Selective Music List (SML) for Mixed Chorus will be continuously provided as an Excel spreadsheet for maximum director flexibility in sorting and searching.

We recommend perusing the list from different perspectives as sorted By Title, By Composer, By Grade and then by Title, and, By Grade and then by Composer.

The initial 2024 compilation for Mixed Chorus included 5,485 titles divided into six Grade Levels as follows:

Grade 1 – 276	Grade 4 – 1,513
Grade 2 – 812	Grade 5 – 1,020
Grade 3 – 1,430	Grade 6 – 434

These initial 5,485 titles were included on the following number of Source Lists:

7 Source Lists -	20	3 Source Lists -	284
6 Source Lists -	34	2 Source Lists -	1,001
5 Source Lists -	44	1 Source List -	3,972
4 Source Lists -	130		

The 20 titles included on ALL seven Source Lists are listed below sorted by Grade, then by Title:

TITLE	COMPOSER	ARR./ED./TRANS./ADAPT.	PMEA GRADE LEVEL
Esto Les Digo	Lange, Kinley		3
Festival Sanctus	Leavitt, John		3
Praise the Lord (from "Judas Maccabeus")	Handel, G.F.	Hopson, Hal	3
Red, Red Rose, A (from "Four Robert Burns Ballads")	Mulholland, James	Rodby	3
Road Not Taken, The (from "Frostiana")	Thompson, Randall		3
Set Me as a Seal (from "A New Creation")	Clausen, René		3
At the Round Earth's Imagined Corners	Spencer, Williametta		4
Battle of Jericho, The	Spiritual	Hogan, Moses	4
Dirait-on (from "Les Chansons des Roses")	Lauridsen, Morten		4
Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee, The	Berger, Jean		4
I Love My Love	Anon. or Trad.	Holst, Gustav	4
My Spirit Sang All Day	Finzi, Gerald		4
O Vos Omnes (from "Cantemus")	Casals, Pablo		4
Sleep	Whitacre, Eric		4
Verbum caro factum est	Hassler, Hans Leo	Richter, Willy	4
Zion's Walls (from "Old American Songs")	Copland, Aaron	Koponen, Glenn	4
Come To Me, My Love	Dello Joio, Norman		5
Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal	American Hymn	Parker, Alice	5
O Magnum Mysterium	Lauridsen, Morten		5

The 34 titles included on SIX of the seven Source Lists are listed below as sorted by Grade, then by Title:

TITLE	COMPOSER	ARR./ED./TRANS./ADAPT.	PMEA GRADE LEVEL
Ain'-a That Good News!	Spiritual	Dawson, William L.	3
Flower of Beauty	Clements, John		3
Gaelic Blessing, A	Rutter, John		3
If Music Be the Food of Love (text by Heveningham)	Dickau, David		3
Muie Rendera (from "There Is Sweet Music Here")	Anon. or Trad.	Fonseca, Carlos Alberto Pinto	3
O Magnum Mysterium	de Victoria, Tomas Luis		3
Pasture, The (No. 2 from "Where the Earth Meets the Sky")	Stroope, Z. Randall		3

Shenandoah	American Folk	Erb, James	3
Sure On This Shining Night	Barber, Samuel		3
Ubi Caritas	Durufle, Maurice		3
Amor de mi Alma (You are the Love of My Soul)	Stroope, Z. Randall		4
Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind (When Icicles Hang)	Rutter, John		4
Cry Out and Shout	Nystedt, Knut		4
Feller from Fortune	Canadian Folk	Somers, Harry	4
For the Beauty of the Earth	Rutter, John		4
I Carry Your Heart With Me	Dickau, David		4
In Remembrance	Ames, Jeffery	Gackle	4
Lullaby (from "Three Nocturnes")	Elder, Daniel	Miller, Joe ed.	4
Musicks Empire (from "Triptych")	Pfautsch, Lloyd		4
Salmo 150 (Psalm 150)	Aguiar, Ernani		4
Sicut Locutus Est (Honor and Glory) (from "Magnificat")	Bach, J.S.	Mack/Banzhaf	4
Sing Me To Heaven	Gawthrop, Daniel		4
With a Voice of Singing	Shaw, Martin		4
Witness	Halloran, Jack	Bolks, Dick	4
Alleluia	Manuel, Ralph		5
Alleluia	Thompson, Randall		5
Daemon Irreptit Callidus	Orban, Gyorgy		5
Elijah Rock	Spiritual	Hogan, Moses	5
Hallelujah (from "Mount of Olives")	Beethoven, Ludwig van		5
Jubilant Song, A	Dello Joio, Norman		5
Last Words of David, The	Thompson, Randall		5
Let Me Fly	Spiritual	DeCormier, Robert	5
There Will Be Rest	Ticheli, Frank		5
Water Night	Whitacre, Eric		5

The 44 titles included on FIVE of the seven Source Lists are listed below as sorted by Grade, then by Title:

TITLE	COMPOSER	ARR./ED./TRANS./ADAPT.	PMEA GRADE LEVEL
Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit	Spiritual	Dawson, William L.	2
Fa una canzona (Sing Me a Song)	Vecchi, Orazio		2
Kyrie	Langford, Paul		2
May Night, The (Die Mainacht)	Brahms, Johannes	Frackenpohl, Arthur	2
Prelude to Peace (text by Sara Teasdale)	Stroope, Z. Randall		2
All Earth, Sing, Rejoice	Handel, G.F.	Hopson, Hal	3
Chester	Billings, William		3
Gate Gate (Buddhist mantra)	Tate, Brian		3

Gloria (from "Heiligmesse"/"Mass in Time of War")	Haydn, Joseph	Liebergen, Patrick	3
Gloria (from "Heiligmesse"/"Mass in Time of War")	Haydn, Joseph	Woodman	3
He, Watching Over Israel (from "Elijah, Op. 70")	Mendelssohn, Felix	Liebergen, Patrick	3
How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place (from "A German Requiem, Op. 45")	Brahms, Johannes		3
Inscription of Hope	Stroope, Z. Randall		3
J'entends le moulin (I Hear the Windmill)	Anon. or Trad.	Patriquin, Donald	3
Now With One Accord (Confitemini Domino)	Constantini, Alessandro	McKelvy, James	3
O Vos Omnes	de Victoria, Tomas Luis		3
Sing a Mighty Song	Gawthrop, Daniel		3
Stars I Shall Find	Johnson, Victor C.		3
Ave Maria (Angelus Domini)	Biebl, Franz		4
Call to Remembrance	Farrant, Richard		4
Cantate Domino	Hassler, Hans Leo	Greyson, Norman	4
Earth Song	Ticheli, Frank		4
Four Slovak Folk Songs (sing one)	Bartok, Bela		4
In Remembrance (from "Requiem")	Daley, Eleanor		4
Kyrie (from "Mass in C Major")	Beethoven, Ludwig van		4
Lord Bless You and Keep You, The	Rutter, John		4
O Whistle and I'll Come to Ye (from "Three Scottish Folksongs")	Anon. or Trad.	Wilberg, Mac	4
Paper Reeds by the Brook, The (Mvt. 5 from "Peaceable Kingdom")	Thompson, Randall		4
Placido E il Mar (from "Idomeneo")	Mozart, W.A.	Wagner, Roger	4
Rose Touched by the Sun's Warm Rays, A	Berger, Jean		4
Soon Ah Will Be Done	Spiritual	Dawson, William L.	4
Sure On This Shining Night	Lauridsen, Morten		4
All That Hath Life and Breath Praise Ye the Lord!	Clausen, René		5
Ave Verum Corpus	Byrd, William	Greenberg, Noah	5
Blue Bird, The	Stanford, Charles Villiers		5
Cantate Sing to the Lord	Goemanne, Noel		5
Daniel, Daniel, Servant of the Lord	Spiritual	Moore, Undine Smith	5
Hodie Christus natus est (Born Today)	Sweelinck, Jan Pieterszoon		5
Hodie Christus natus est (Born Today)	Willan, Healey		5
O Nata Lux (from "Lux Aeterna")	Lauridsen, Morten		5
Os justi meditabitur sapientiam	Bruckner, Anton		5
Plorate Filii Israel (from "Jephtah")	Carissimi, Giacomo	Clough-Leigher, Henry	5
Alleluia (from "Brazilian Psalm")	Berger, Jean		6
Ave Maria	Bruckner, Anton		6

Subsequent steps planned concerning the PMEA SML for Mixed Chorus that have not already been mentioned include, but are not limited to, the following:

- To research and establish official PMEA criteria for assigning Grade Levels 1-6 to Mixed Chorus repertoire
- To develop a formal review process by a 'Chorus Repertoire Review Committee' to determine if submitted pieces should be approved to be added to the PMEA SML for Mixed Chorus and, if so, at what Grade Level.
- To review the last formal edition of the PMEA SML for Chorus in 1991 to determine if any pieces included that are not on the new PMEA SML for Mixed Chorus should be reinstated.
- To establish a network for borrowing a piece that is out of print from existing libraries throughout the state
- To identify which of the titles included in the PMEA SML for Mixed Chorus are indeed 'masterworks' or 'core repertoire' as an additional resource for new and veteran directors alike

Contact me with questions and suggestions concerning any aspect of the PMEA Selective Music List for Mixed Chorus.

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