



April, 2010



Greetings!

March 14
Somewhere on I-65 in Kentucky

On Friday, I had the privilege of being a presenter at the ACDA Southern Division Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. The content of my presentation, *Building or rebuilding a children's music and worship program in a 'soccer mom/football dad' church*, was drawn from weekly discussions with colleagues about the general disinterest in church music/worship education that many parents in our churches seem to have, how to combat parental misconceptions about the relevance of a children's music and worship program, and how to market the program's benefits to church families. I will be sharing these ideas with you via this newsletter during the 2010-2011 choir year.

On Saturday, my husband Wes and I drove to Cincinnati for a rehearsal and performance by the superb Cincinnati Children's Choir, directed by founder Robyn Lana. Wes's anthem *When We Build* was the winner of the 2010 CCC Composition Competition and we were invited to attend the premiere performance. I was inspired by the caliber of singing I heard, as well as the passion and joy expressed by both singers and directors. After the concert, we met Robyn's mom, a long time church choir director, and heard Robyn speak enthusiastically about her wonderful childhood memories associated with church choir.

The text of *When We Build* (by John Ruskin, adapted by Wes Ramsay), contains the words, "When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight, nor for present use alone . . . It is the far sight, the quiet and confident patience, that bid us heed the call, and near us to our Maker." May this be our prayer as we reflect on our 2009-2010 choir year, and as we set goals and make plans for 2010-2011.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Carol McClure, Editor



Viva Voce!

Rehearsal Plans

May offers you the opportunity to draw the choir year to a close as you help your choristers celebrate their increased knowledge in the areas of music and worship and to offer your choristers tangible rewards for their learning achievements.

Your review activities might include one or more of the following.

1. *Play Identify the Composer.*

Play a musical selection and read a fact about a composer. Ask the choristers to identify the composer from the selection played and the fact read.

2. *Play Terms and Signs Baseball.*

Have the choristers take turns "at bat", defining the meanings of musical symbols and terms (learned throughout the choir year) shown on flashcards. Take the time to mark out a baseball diamond in the choir room. If you have the money in your budget (or a choir parent who wants to make a donation), have baseball caps marked with treble or bass clef signs (to designate teams) on the bills for the children to wear during this activity. (Choristers will get to take the caps home on the last day of choir.)

3. *Play Viva Voce Music Skills Jeopardy.*

Group the choristers in teams. On a board, list categories as follows: Intervals - Major / minor - Echo Singing - Warm-Ups - Time Signatures. Have teams alternately take turns, choosing a category for aural skills quizzing, identifying or singing intervals, identifying if a passage is in a major or minor key, repeating back a set of echo singing exercises, singing designated warm-ups, identifying the time signature of a passage of music played on the piano.

4. *Have a Viva Voce Hymn-Sing.*

Invite parents to come to choir rehearsal and join the choristers in singing some of the hymns they have learned throughout the year. Have designated choristers ready to share information about each hymn with the visiting parents. The culmination of the *Hymn-Sing* can be the awarding of *Hymn-Knowledge-y* certificates.

5. *Hold the Viva Voce End of the Choir Year Certificate Quiz Event.*

The choristers should be well-prepared for this final step toward earning their *Viva Voce Level I* certificates. Parts 1, 3 and 4 are written matching or multiple choice activities. Part 2 requires that the choir director play appropriate rhythm patterns, intervals and music with appropriate time signatures on the piano. Part 5 activities may be done by the whole choir together or by small groups of choristers.

6. *Stage an End of the Choir Year Certificate Award Celebration.*

Have a party! Celebrate publicly, with parents and church staff invited, the success of the choristers' learning and service throughout the choir year. Award each chorister his or her *Viva Voce Level I Certificate* individually, complimenting each chorister for his/her musical growth. Conclude the celebration with the singing of *The Choristers' Benediction*.



May we worship
You, O Lord,
the God of Israel
and Jacob;

May we come to
You, O Christ,
with each heart
and each voice;

May we sing
to You and
bring to You
the music of
the Spirit;

With our songs
and our lives,
may we
praise You
and rejoice.



Congratulations to
**Naomi
Mauss,
age 6,**

the Viva Voce
2010 Easter Text
Competition
Winner,

and to

Ellen Jones,
Director of Music,
St. Paul's Episcopal
Church, Athens, TN

Naomi Mauss and her sister Eliana (age 2) and their parents Jennifer and Mark attend St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Athens, Tennessee, where Naomi is a member of St. Paul's Junior Choristers. Naomi loves reading, making art (especially if there are scissors, glue, paint, and/or glitter involved), and adventures, outside, if possible. She lives on a farm with her parents, her little sister, her fish Buster, and a bunch of other animals.



Mary came to the tomb
and the stone
was rolled aside.

An angel stood
in front of the tomb
and said,

“Jesus rose!”

Mary ran
to tell the others.

On her way,
she spotted a man
at the side of the road.

Then she noticed--
he was Jesus.

“Jesus rose!”

Naomi Mauss



Viva Voce

End of the Year *Viva Voce* Level I Certificate Quiz

Chorister Name _____ Date _____

Part 1: Cracking the Code

Match the term or symbol on the left with its definition on the right.



whole rest -- equals 4 quarter note beats



eighth notes -- each equals 1/2 beat



bass clef sign



crescendo – gradually getting louder



quarter rest – equals one quarter note beat



pianissimo – very quiet



sharp sign – raises pitch of a note by 1/2 step



staccato – short and detached



fortissimo – very loud



diminuendo – gradually getting quieter



mezzo piano – moderately (medium) quiet



mezzo forte – moderately (medium) loud



half rest – equals 2 beats



treble clef sign



repeat signs

pp

eighth rest – equals 1/2 beat

mf

flat sign – raise pitch of a note by 1/2 step

ff

accent– give the note indicated more emphasis

mp

whole note -- equals 4 beats



half note – equals 2 quarter notes

Part 2: What Do You Hear?

Circle the rhythm pattern, interval or time signature you hear played on the piano.



4. 3rd 4th 5th octave

5. 3rd 4th 5th octave

6. 4th 5th 6th octave

7. 4th 5th 6th octave

8. 3/4 4/4

9. 3/4 4/4

10. 3/4 4/4

Part 3: Note Reading

Write the name of each of the notes you see below.























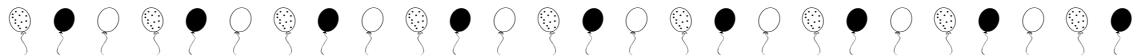
Part 4: Liturgics and Music History
Answer the multiple choice questions below.

1. The color used during the season of Lent is _____.
purple green red white
2. The color used on Pentecost is _____.
purple green red white
3. The color used on Easter is _____.
purple green red white
4. The color used during the season of Christmas is _____.
purple green red white
5. Which composer's most famous choral work was *A German Requiem*?
Bach Beethoven Mozart Brahms
6. Which composer based the fourth movement of his *Ninth Symphony* on the melody we know as *Ode to Joy*?
Bach Beethoven Mozart Brahms
7. Which one of the following texts is NOT a text of praise to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
Doxology *Gloria Patri* *The Lord's Prayer*
8. Antonio Vivaldi was an Italian composer of the _____ period.
Baroque Classical Romantic Modern
9. Johann Sebastian Bach signed his music with three initials representing the words _____, indicating his music was dedicated only to God's Glory.
Soli Deo Gloria *Dona nobis pacem* *Jubilate Deo*
10. The Baroque composer of the oratorio *Messiah* was _____.
Antonio Vivaldi J.S. Bach G.F. Handel W.A. Mozart

Part 5: Singing

Sing one of each of the selections below for your choir director.
These may be sung by a group of choristers together.
Have him/her initial each task as you have completed it.

- ____ 1. Sing the *Echo Singing* exercises from any of the monthly newsletters. (Your choir director chooses which month.)
- ____ 2. Sing *Warm-Up #2 (I Love to Sing)* from the August newsletter.
- ____ 3. Sing *Warm-Up #3 (The Frog Song)* from the August newsletter.
- ____ 4. Sing the following intervals.
____ ascending perfect fifth
____ descending perfect fourth
____ descending minor third
____ ascending octave
____ descending octave
- ____ 5. Sing your part from the following 2009-10 choral repertoire.
____ an anthem of your director's choice
____ an anthem of your choice



Congratulations!

You have completed your first year of

Viva Voce !



Viva Voce
Certificate of Achievement

in Music Skills, Liturgics, Music History and Singing
is hereby granted to



Level I
2009-2010

Choir Director