

LRCC REHEARSAL NOTES

September 7, 2026

Jan's Notes

I started the rehearsal with four warmup exercises followed by the singing of, "Silent Night." Everyone was looking at me and sang with feeling, lots of emotion and confidence. One of my goals for this session is to break away from being totally dependent on looking at the music and be able to look up at the conductors.

Adeste Fideles (Be near faithful ones)

The piece is written in 2/2 time which means there are two beats to a measure and the half note gets the beat. I will conduct the piece with two beats per measure, not four. I pointed out places where we sing in unison (same pitch or at the octave) and where we have an echo effect. A descant begins on P. 8, M. 60. (a descant is a high, obligato part above the melody) This piece has parts for Bell Chimes and percussion.

Sleigh Ride

I pointed out that Valerie recorded this piece at two different speeds. Practice with the slower tempo until you feel comfortable singing faster. We mapped out the piece noting that when we get to the last measure on P.13 we go back to the sign on P. 4, M. 13. D.S. is an abbreviation for del segno which means go back and sing from the sign until you get to the CODA (ending). When we sing the song for the second time we go to the CODA at the bottom of P.8, M.57. The CODA begins on P.14, M.103.

What to work on for next week – P.5, pickup to M. 29 through P.13, M.98.

Brightest and Best – a lively arrangement for SATB chorus and piano of the sturdy American hymn, "Start of the East." The piece begins in unison (verse 1) then in canon (verse 2) and adorned with mirrored counter-melodies (verse 3)

What to work on for next week – P. 10 to the end. Please listen to and sing with your part on the LRCC website.

On This Still, Silent Night

I introduced the piece which was familiar to some of us as we sang it in 2023. This piece also uses Bell Chimes.

Next week – I hope to introduce "Carry the Light" and "Winter Wonderland." It would be very helpful if you have time to listen to these pieces on the LRCC website and then follow along and sing with your individual part.

I started "African Noel", "The Christmas Tree Feud" and "Long Ago (In the Bleak Midwinter)". I felt it was a good start. (Thanks for your suggestion to SLOW things down. (This organization is for those who may not have had any choral experience, but want to enjoy singing - we are NOT the Maine Music Society Chorale or the Choral Art Society of Portland, and I need to keep that thought in all I do.)

Next week, I would like to continue to work on "African Noel" with two goals in mind: reviewing the alto part starting on page 4, since theirs is the most rhythmically challenging and refining the staggered entrances of each part starting on page 5. The over-all goal is to gradually increase the speed of the music to match that of the recording found on the LRCC webpage. If there is time left after that, I want to review "The Christmas Tree Feud" with the original plan of sopranos and tenors singing Part 1 and altos and basses singing part 2.

In addition to reviewing "African Noel", I would like to start work on "I Saw Three Ships" and "Jingle ALLL the Ways". Members should listen to these selections on the LRCC webpage, paying particular attention to "Jingle" in order to familiarize themselves with the music and the ever-changing rhythms, moods and styles found in this clever arrangement. The primary goal is to sing through the song up to measure 62 if possible.

OOPS - I meant to say that IF there is time left after working on "African Noel", "I Saw Three Ships" and "Jingle ALLL the Ways" I would like to review "The Christmas Tree Feud" with the original plan of sopranos and tenors singing part 1 and altos and basses singing part 2.

Thanks,
CO