

September 14, 2026

Charlie's Notes:

Thank you for a good rehearsal this week.

African Noel is shaping up nicely - thank you altos for your perseverance on the rhythmic challenges of your part. Everyone should focus on speeding up the pace in this piece - sing along with the recording as often as you can.

A good start on I Saw Three Ships - the overall mood of this piece is celebratory and should have the feeling of a rousing sea chanty. The divided soprano part along with the alto part on page 9 starting at measure 41 is off to a good start and should reflect the overall joyous mood of this piece.

I will not be there next week, as it is Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. I will return the following week. At that rehearsal, I will focus on two pieces:

Long Ago (In the Bleak Midwinter) and Jingle ALLL the Ways. As mentioned before, Jingle ALLL the Ways has many different moods that constantly shift and there are many rhythm challenges. Listening to the recording will be your best help with this. Long Ago is a beautiful piece and should be performed with the goal in mind of establishing the serenity of a cozy winter evening next to a warm fire.

Thanks again for a good rehearsal.

Jan's Rehearsal Notes

We reviewed "Adeste Fidelus". (Be near ye faithful ones) When you practice this piece please be aware of when we sing in unison, when we have an echo effect and when we sing in four-part harmony. The flute part is really beautiful and adds a lot to the piece. The flute part has a lot of independent lines built on motifs that we are singing. Be aware of dynamic markings and crescendos. "Molto rit." On P. 11. M. 89 means much slower.

Brightest and Best - The low voices begin the piece on P.3, M. 9. High voices join in on P. 4, M. 17 in unison. We go into four-part harmony on P.5, M. 25 until M. 33 where we sing in unison until M. 42 on P. 6. An echo section begins (softly) on P. 6, M. 44. P. 8, M. 60 is an exact repeat of what we have already sung on P. 5, M. 25 through P. 6, M. 42. The Basses and the Baritones divide on P. 10, M. 83 and the Tenors join them on M. 84. (Some Altos might be asked to sing with the Tenors here. The Altos divide into two parts on P. 11, M, 91. Check out the small arrows on P. 11, at the end of M. 98. The arrows are telling us that we are going back to two staves instead of five. The Altos have the melody on P. 12, M. 99 while the Sopranos are singing an obligato part above the melody. We are cutting out the last two lines on P. 13 and going straight into M, 124 on P. 14 from P. 13, M, 115. Please mark your music accordingly in pencil. We will be working on this piece again on Monday night. Please go over and sing with your part while following along on your music.

Carry the Light - We had a really good start on this piece. The pronunciation guide for "Lux Aeterna" can be found at the bottom of P. 5. (loox eh TEHR-nah)

It means "eternal light." The Lux Aeterna section will be repeated after the Alto solo which starts with a pickup to M. 34 on P. 7. The repeat sign is at the bottom of P. 7 at the end of the first ending. When singing the repeated section get ready to turn to the second ending at the top of P. 8, M. 42 from P.6, M. 31. We have three independent voice parts starting at M. 44 on P. 8. The Tenors and Basses have the melody. (Think of "He Watching Over Israel") We end with only the Basses singing the tonic Eb or resting tone with the rest of us sort of hanging in air. Please work on this piece for Monday night.

On This Still, Silent Night - Please review this piece for Monday night. Carolyn will tell us how many Bell Chime players she needs for each piece.

Winter Wonderland - If you have time for nothing else this week, please listen to Winter Wonderland and try singing your part with it. There are two versions, fast and slow. It is an arrangement by Kirby Shaw which is both challenging and fun. I know you are going to enjoy this piece.

Susan's Notes

We looked at Ad Astra. Here's how I would practice this piece.

1. Listen to the piece in entirety while you follow along.
2. Go over the Latin at least three times.
3. Sing with the recording on the syllable "doo."
4. Sing with the recording if you are able. If not, continue on a "doo" syllable.
5. Finally, sing again with the recording, having as much Latin as you're able to.

If you can do this every day you will know this piece in a couple of weeks. I know we went through some other things in this piece like where there's unison where there are duets and when there are one beat Rounds. We'll go over that again.

Enniscorthy Carol

Using the same process as above, listen and follow along. Next try singing along with the recording. There will be some challenging parts. Especially on Page 8 where the Sopranos and Tenors sing a triplet while the Altos and Basses sing two eighth notes. This tricky rhythm is repeated on the bottom of page 10, and on the bottom of page 13. The rest of the piece is pretty straightforward. Please mark any spots (in pencil) that you have questions about. One more thought. Please do not take breaths in the middle of a phrase. If you need to take a breath, stagger breathe with your neighbor.