

R&S CHAIRS

JAZZ CHOIRS

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SHOW CHOIRS

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Johnston High School
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YOUTH & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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Blair Buffington
604 West O St
Forest City, IA 50436
641-585-1301

Waldorf College
106 S 6th St
Forest City, IA 50436
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TWO YEAR COLLEGE CHOIRS

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James Loos
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515-986-9762

Des Moines Area Community College
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COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY CHOIRS

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Tim McMillin
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515-961-2847

Simpson College
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COMMUNITY CHOIRS

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Ames, IA 50010
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Ames Choral Society/Good Company
1513 Douglas Ave
Ames, IA 50010
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24 / Sounding Board

BRAVO

WOMEN'S CHOIRS, CONTINUED

On to the new music recommendations:

Gloria

Ola Gjeilo
SSAA and four-hand piano or small orchestra
Walton Music HL08501690

Commissioned by Sigrid Johnson and the Manitou Singers at St. Olaf College, *Gloria* was first performed for Christmas at St. Olaf in 2008. Lynne Gackle, series editor, includes her own notes about the piece inside the octavo. "Ola Gjeilo offers a new and fresh setting of this beautiful text specifically written for treble voices. From the ethereal *Gloria in excelsis Deo* opening to the thrilling and exuberant Amen, this angelic hymn provides contrast and fanfare for the singer and the audience." The work, in 12/8, moves between sustained sections and bouncing dotted rhythms effortlessly. While it is largely in two or three parts, the close harmonies make this piece better suited to more advanced ensembles.

Is the Moon Tired?

Tom Shelton, Jr.
SSA with vibraphone and piano
Colla Voce 18-96640

Part of the Lynn Gackle Choral Series, the text of this piece is a Christina Rossetti poem. It begins with a solo recitative-like section followed by legato voice parts over a rhythmically exciting accompaniment. The A section is partner song-like or has the sopranos and altos passing the melody back and forth. The B section contrasts with longer note values and a homophonic texture before the return to A adds a third partner. The vibraphone adds interest and an ethereal quality. *Is the Moon Tired* would be very appropriate for young singers.

Still I Rise

arr. Rosephanye Powell
SSA with piano and solo or semi-chorus
Gentry Publications JG2346

Commissioned by Vox Femina and performed at the ACDA National Convention in 2005, *Still I Rise* is written in a spiritual-like style that will be a favorite for your women. The

piece works well if you have a great soloist to showcase or with a small group. A vamp at the end builds to eight+ parts before the big finish. The parts are divided in a way that makes it easy to use when combining choirs for festivals. Powell writes, "In summary, though a woman's life or past may be filled with tears and heartaches, with each day that she finds herself still living, she finds that she has grown stronger and risen a little higher because her circumstances have not overcome her. Thus, every new day can be one of hope and joy because regardless of the past, today, 'still I rise!'"

Song of Perfect Propriety

Carol Barnett
SSAA with piano
Earthsongs

This piece was on the list for the women's choir reading session led by Debra Spurgeon at last year's national convention, but is certainly worth another mention. Based on a hysterical Dorothy Parker text, it was written for the Cornell University Women's Chorus as part of a project titled "No Whining, No Flowers." This text stays far away from all stereotypical women's choir literature themes. The work provides a challenge, but will be a favorite for singer and audience alike!

There Will Be Rest

Dan Kallman
SSA accompanied with flute
Kallman Creates

A lovely unison/two-part opening gives way to a challenging polyphonic section that is well worth the effort. This gem, based on a Christina Rossetti text, will have you struggling to choose which moment is your favorite. A sound file of this piece can be found at the composer's website, www.kallmancreates.com.