



Choral Sight Reading Composition Criteria Class 1

PLEASE NOTE: The following represent perimeters **not** requirements for each piece. Works must be unaccompanied and must include a keyboard reduction.

METER: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4; **No** meter change.

KEY: Basic major keys, in appropriate range and tessitura for young voices, up to two sharps or two flats (C, G, D, F, Bb). **No** modulations.

HARMONY: Simple altered chords approached or left stepwise; Melodic skips in the I, IV, V chords only; **No** augmented 4ths or diminished 5ths.

TEXTURE: Homophonic, **no** polyphony.

RHYTHM: Basic patterns using eighth, quarter, half and whole notes and rests. Dotted values of quarter note or larger.

CADENCE: Authentic and plagal cadences only (**no** deceptive cadences)

LENGTH: 24 measures; approximate duration 1-2 minutes.

VOICES: SATB, SSA, TBB. Mixed SAB is available for choirs that perform SAB literature in concert.

TEXT: Secular in English; Suitable for school or concert use; **no** Patriotic.

RANGES:

The diagram illustrates the vocal ranges for six voice parts. The top three staves are for Soprano I, Soprano II (for SSA only), and Alto, all using treble clefs. The bottom three staves are for Tenor, Baritone (for TBB and SAB), and Bass, using a mix of treble and bass clefs. Each staff contains a single note representing the range of the voice part.



Choral Sight Reading Composition Criteria Class 2 and 3

PLEASE NOTE: The following represent perimeters **not** requirements for each piece. Works must be unaccompanied and must include a keyboard reduction.

METER: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4; **No** meter change.

KEY: Basic major keys, in appropriate range and tessitura for young voices, up to three sharps or three flats (C, G, D, F, Bb, Eb). **No** key of A and **no** modulations.

HARMONY: Simple altered chords approached or left stepwise; Melodic skips in the I, IV, V chords only; **No** augmented 4ths or diminished 5ths.

TEXTURE: Predominantly homophonic. **No** more than 20% polyphony.

RHYTHM: Basic patterns using eighth, quarter, half and whole notes and rests. Dotted values of quarter note or larger.

CADENCE: Authentic and plagal cadences only (**no** deceptive cadences)

LENGTH: 24-32 measures; approximate duration 1-2 minutes.

VOICES: SATB, SSA, TTB. SAB is available for choirs that perform SAB literature during performance.

TEXT: Secular in English; Suitable for school or concert use; **no** Patriotic.

RANGES:

The diagram illustrates the vocal ranges for six voice parts. The top row contains Soprano I (treble clef, note on the second line), Soprano II (for SSA only) (treble clef, note on the second line), and Alto (treble clef, note on the second space). The bottom row contains Tenor (treble clef, note on the second space), Baritone (for TBB and SAB) (bass clef, note on the second space), and Bass (bass clef, note on the second space). Each staff has a diagonal line connecting the note to the staff line, indicating the range.



Choral Sight Reading Composition Criteria Class 4

PLEASE NOTE: The following represent perimeters **not** requirements for each piece. Works must be unaccompanied and must include a keyboard reduction.

METER: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4; maximum of one meter change (No returning to previous key).

KEY: Basic major keys, in appropriate range and tessitura for young voices, up to four sharps or four flats (C, G, D, F, Bb, Eb). **No** A, E or Ab keys. **No** modulations.

HARMONY: Simple altered chords approached or left stepwise; Melodic skips in the I, IV, and V7 chords; **No** augmented 4ths or diminished 5ths.

TEXTURE: Predominantly homophonic (**no** more than 20% polyphony)

RHYTHM: Basic patterns using eighth, quarter, half and whole notes and rests. Dotted values of quarter note or larger; one beat triplet; notes tied across bar lines.

CADENCE: Authentic, and plagal

LENGTH: 32 measures; approximate duration 1-2 minutes.

VOICES: SATB, SSA, TBB.

TEXT: Secular in English; Suitable for school or concert use; **no** Patriotic.

RANGES:



Choral Sight Reading Composition Criteria Class 5

PLEASE NOTE: The following represent perimeters **not** requirements for each piece. Works must be unaccompanied and must include a keyboard reduction.

METER: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4; maximum of one meter change and return

KEY: Basic major keys, in appropriate range and tessitura for young voices, up to four sharps or four flats (C, G, D, E, F, Bb, Eb). May use accidentals; but **No** A or Ab keys. A maximum of one modulation to relative or parallel minor, dominant or subdominant keys (and return) using common chord modulation.

HARMONY: Simple altered chords approached or left stepwise; Melodic skips in the I, IV, and V7 chords; **No** augmented 4ths or diminished 5ths.

TEXTURE: Predominantly homophonic (**no** more than 20% polyphony)

RHYTHM: Basic patterns using eighth, quarter, half and whole notes and rests. Dotted values of quarter note or larger; one beat triplet; notes tied across bar lines.

CADENCE: Authentic, and plagal

LENGTH: 32-40 measures; approximate duration 1-2 minutes.

VOICES: SATB, SSA, TBB.

TEXT: Secular in English; Suitable for school or concert use; **no** Patriotic.

RANGES:

The diagram illustrates the vocal ranges for a SATB choir. It consists of six staves arranged in two rows of three. The top row contains Soprano I, Soprano II (for SSA only), and Alto. The bottom row contains Tenor, Baritone (for TBB only), and Bass. Each staff shows a whole note on a specific line or space, indicating the range of the voice part. Soprano I is on the first line, Soprano II is on the second line, Alto is on the third line, Tenor is on the second space, Baritone is on the third space, and Bass is on the fourth space.