



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. Literature shall contain **no** rhythmic polyphony.

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 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 and SAB), and Bass. Each staff shows a single note on a line of the staff, with a diagonal line indicating the range of the voice part. The Soprano I range is from G4 to C5. The Soprano II range is from G4 to C5. The Alto range is from G3 to C5. The Tenor range is from G3 to C5. The Baritone range is from G2 to C5. The Bass range is from G2 to C5.



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. **No** more than 20% of the measures shall contain rhythmic polyphony.

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

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

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

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

RANGES:

Soprano I

Soprano II
(for SSA only)

Alto

Tenor

Baritone
(for TBB and SAB)

Bass



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. **No** more than 20% of the measures shall contain rhythmic polyphony.

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:

Soprano I

Soprano II
(for SSA only)

Alto

Tenor

Baritone
(for TBB only)

Bass



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. **No** more than 20% of the measures shall contain rhythmic polyphony.

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.

RANGE:

