



## Young Women In Harmony Showcase Chorus 2014

### Guidelines for learning the songs – for Teachers

Download all the tracks for the songs from the website link. You can save them onto your computer and then load them up onto an iPod or other device (or burn them to a CD). Ask the students to do the same.

#### Pitch note / start note

Each track starts with an electronic sound. This is the pitch note of the song. It's important for singers to learn the where their first note starts in relation to this pitch note so they can start the song accurately with confidence each time. Some singers just memorise it, others count the number of notes from the pitch pipe note to their start note. Whatever works for you! Be sure when they hear the pitch note that they know what note to start on in relation to the pitch. The pitch of the song will only change if there is a key change in the song. We recommend you purchase a hand held pitch pipe, either electronic or mechanical and play the pitch note at the beginning before the students start singing.

#### What part will you sing? Tenor, Lead, Baritone or Bass?

There is more information about voice parts in the Educators Guide but as a general rule, 1st soprano's learn the tenor part, 2<sup>nd</sup> soprano's learn the lead part, 1<sup>st</sup> Alto's learn the Baritone part and 2<sup>nd</sup> Alto's learn the bass part. The Educators Guide contains more information on voice placing.

#### Tips for learning music quickly and accurately

- Repetition and really listening to the recording is the key to learning notes accurately.
- Plan 15 – 30 minutes at least 3 or 4 times a week to learn your music, away from distractions if possible (for example, at your computer or in the car). For best results, use the 'Suggested process for learning new songs' described further down this page.
- This process of learning new songs should take around 3 weeks, depending on the type of song, and how often you make time to practise. Making time to practice regularly during each week is very important.
- Your part often makes no sense in the beginning, but it will all fall into place! If you get frustrated at any stage, leave it for a couple of days and come back to it.
- If you are a music reader, we urge you to learn the song/s from the learning tracks rather than from the sheet music, as the learning tracks contain the correct interpretation, vowel sounds, timing and vocal production for each song. Please note that the learning tracks may not match the sheet music exactly, eg timing, rhythms etc. Go with the learning track!
- At choir rehearsal, practise the song with the students standing together in their voice parts. A rehearsal of the songs at least once per week at school choir practice will be required.

#### Suggested process for learning new songs (do this over 2 – 3 weeks)

- 1) Play your part at *least* 4 – 6 times in a row, looking at the sheet music, listening only - **do not sing along**.
- 2) Play your part again while humming softly and looking at the sheet music, 2 or 3 times – **do not sing along**.
- 3) Sing your part softly with the recording of your part x 3 times.
- 4) Sing your part with the 'All parts' version x 3 times.
- 5) If you find you have trouble with a particular section of the song, listen to the learning track again a few times, then humming 4 times, then sing it several times with the recording until you have it right.
- 6) Follow steps 1, 2, 3 and 4 over 2 or 3 weeks.
- 7) When you feel you know it, sing your part with each of the 3 parts, to hear the harmony and how your part fits with the others. Take note if you don't feel confident anywhere and then ...
- 8) Repeat steps 1, 2, 3 & 4 as necessary.