

Top Repertoire Choices for School Choirs

This is an list of some “no fail” choral octavos for choirs of all ages and abilities. Within each voicing, the pieces are arranged roughly in the following order: Classics/Masterworks, Contemporary works, “Multi-cultural” music (including American folk music), and Pop/Jazz/Broadway selections. Note that no distinction is made regarding difficulty.

Unison

- “Bist du Bei Mir” (J. S. Bach) - Boosey & Hawkes
- ”Agnus Dei” from Mass in C (W. A. Mozart) - Kjos
- “A New Year Carol” (Benjamin Britten) - Boosey & Hawkes
- “As I Hear the Sweet Lark Sing” (Richard DeLong)
- “I Will Give You the Key” (Dan Kallman) - Mark Foster *optional 2nd part *clarinet
- “Dormi, Dormi” (Italian Carol, arr. Mary Goetze) - Boosey & Hawkes
- “Sleep My Baby” (Welsh Lullaby, arr. Alec Rowley) - Boosey & Hawkes
- “Fancie” (Benjamin Britten) - Boosey & Hawkes *Splits to harmony for last few bars - a good intro. to harmony

2-part (SCOPE)

(Single note harmony, Canons/Rounds, Ostinato, Partner, Echo)

CANONS

- “Alleluia Canon” (Mozart/Moore) - Alfred *Flute
- “Alleluia, Praise!” (Luigi Cherubini, arr. Douglas E. Wagner) - Somerset Press *3-part canon
- “Panis Angelicus” (César Franck, ed. John Leavitt) - Warner Bros. *Range issues
- “Now I Walk in Beauty” (Gregg Smith) - G. Schirmer
- “Shalom Chaverim” (Traditional Hebrew)
- “Haida” (Chassidic Niggun, arr. Gerber/Leck) - Boosey & Hawkes
- “Shining Moon” (Thai Folk Song, arr. Audrey Snyder) - Hal Leonard

PARTNER SONGS (QUODLIBETS)

- “Regards to Broadway” (George M. Cohan, arr. Don Besig and Nancy Price) - Alfred
 - “The Journey” (Dvorak 9th Symphony/Simple Gifts, arr. Joseph Martin) - Shawnee Press
 - “A Christmas Caravan” (3-part original partner song by Roy E. Johnson) - Coronet/Theodore Presser
 - “Cross the Wide Missouri” (Shenandoah/Water is Wide, arr. Don Besig and Nancy Price) - Alfred *With flute
 - “Heaven Bound Light” (Heaven Bound Soldier/This Little Light of Mine, arr. Philip Kern) - Alfred
 - “Yonder Come Day” (Traditional Island Song, arr. Judith Cook Tucker) - World Music Press
 - “My America” (America/Original melody, arr. Joyce Eilers Bacak) - Jenson Publications
 - “Partners Across America” (Collection by Jill Gallina) - Shawnee Press *Number 7 is a winner
- NOTE: Because this collection comes with photocopy permission, you only need to buy one copy.*

ECHO SONGS

- “On With the Show” (Jay Althouse) - Alfred
- “Candle in the Night” (Lois Brownsey and Marti Lunn Lantz) - Alfred
- “When the Saints Go Marching In” (Traditional)
- “The Water is Wide” (Traditional)

2-part treble (Easy: Grades 5-9)

“The Garden Song” (Dave Mallet, arr. Mac Huff) - Hal Leonard *Optional descant *Flute
“Cover the World With Love” (Jerry Estes) *Sign language available *Optional 3rd part for SSA performance
“All Things Bright and Beautiful” (John Rutter) - Hinshaw
“My Heart Soars” (Ruth Watson Henderson) - Hinshaw *Be careful of range issues
“Silver the River” (Stephen Paulus) - European American Music
“Today is the Day” (Teresa Jennings) - Hal Leonard
“Hats” (Hank Beebe) - Hal Leonard *Each octavo includes hat choreography
“Reflection” (Linda Spevacek) - Jenson/Hal Leonard
“We Have Today” (Ian Lynn, arr. Pete Schumutte) - Warner Bros. *from Up With People

“I Walk the Unfrequented Road” (American Folk Hymn, arr. Lee Kjelson)
“Yankee Spectacular” (Medley, arr. Linda Spevacek) - Jenson Publications/Hal Leonard
“Cripple Creek” (American Folk Song, arr. Emily Crocker) - Hal Leonard
“De Colores” (Mexican Folk Song, arr. Sonja Poorman) - Alfred *Optional descant
“Ma Bella Bimba” (Italian, arr. Donald Moore) - Alfred
“Turkey in the Straw” (American Folk Song, arr. Linda Spevack) - Heritage Music Press

“Corner of the Sky” from Pippin (arr. John Cacavas) - Belwin-Mills
“Chim Chi Cher-ee” from Mary Poppins (arr. Christy Cary Miller) - Hal Leonard
“Castle on a Cloud” from Les Miserables (arr. Linda Spevacek) - Hal Leonard

2-part treble (More difficult: Grades 7-12)

“Festival Procession” (13th Century Conductus, arr. Emily Crocker) - Hal Leonard
“Sound the Trumpet” (Henry Purcell) - Lawson-Gould
“Rise Up Singing!” (Henry Purcell, arr. Patrick Liebergen) - Alfred *With flute
“Let’s Imitate Her Notes” from Alexander’s Feast (Handel, ed. Hines) - Lawson-Gould
“Laudamus Te” Duet from Gloria (Antonio Vivaldi) - Boosey & Hawkes
“Gloria (Excerpts)” (Antonio Vivaldi) - Boosey & Hawkes
“Stabat Mater (Excerpts)” (Giovanni Battista Pergolesi) - Hinshaw
“Wir Eilen mit schwachen” (J. S. Bach) - E. C. Schirmer
“Schön Blümelein” (Robert Schumann) - Kjos *Difficult piano part
“Von dem Rosenbusch” (Robert Schumann) - G. Schirmer
“Herbstlied” (Franz Schubert) - National Music Publishers
“Jerusalem Luminosa” (Abbie B. Betinis) - Odhecaton Music Publishing

“When Children Sing” (Mary Goetze) - Boosey & Hawkes
“Yo Le Canto Todo El Dia” (David L. Brunner) - Boosey & Hawkes

“Durme, Durme” (Sephardic Folk Song, arr. Audrey Snyder) - Hal Leonard

SSA

- “Aure volanti” (Francesca Caccini) - Broude Brothers Limited **Three flutes and continuo*
“Overture to the Marriage of Figaro” (Mozart, arr. Cable) - Hinshaw
“Lift Thine Eyes” (Felix Mendelssohn) - G. Schirmer
“The Snow” (Edward Elgar) **Two violins and piano*
“As Torrents in Summer” (Edward Elgar)
“Heruvimskaya Pesn” (Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov) - Musica Russica *SSAA
- “Os Justi” (Eleanor Daley) - Alliance
“It Was a Lover and His Lass” (Emily Crocker) - Hal Leonard
“Till the Stars Fall from the Sky” (Sally K. Albrecht) - Alfred
“Life Has Loveliness to Sell” (Mary Lynn Lightfoot) - Heritage Music Press
“Blessing” (Katie Moran Bart) - Curtis Music Press
“A Girl’s Garden” (Randall Thompson) - E. C. Shirmer
“Nigra Sum” (Pablo Casals) - Tetra/Continuo
“A Child is Born” (Nick Page) - Boosey & Hawkes *SSAA
“Water Under Snow is Weary” (Harri Wessman) - Walton Music Corp. *SSAA
“Cape Breton Lullaby” (Kenneth Leslie)
“Away from the Roll of the Sea” (MacGillivray, arr. Stuart Calvert) - Gordon V. Thompson/Warner Bros.
“Dance On My Heart” (Allan Koepke) - Santa Barbara Music Press
“Metsa Telegramm” (Uno Naisso) - Mark Foster Music
“Lux Aeterna” (Z. Randall Stroope) - Alliance Music Press **Organ, not piano*
- “Shake the Papaya Down” (Calypso Song, arr. Dwyer and Waller)
“Kling, Glöcken, Kling!” (German Carol, arr. Robert Sieving) - Santa Barbara Music Publishing
“Past Three O’Clock” (English Carol, arr. Matthew Culloton) - Mark Foster Music
“Tshotsholoza” *from South African Suite* (arr. Henry Leck)
“Morning Has Broken” (arr. John Rutter) - Hinshaw
“Hotaru Koi” (Japanese Folk Song, arr. Ro Ogura) - Theodore Presser
“Old Joe Clark” (American Folk, arr. Mary Goetze) - Boosey & Hawkes
“Shenandoah” (American Folk, arr. Mary Goetze) - Boosey & Hawkes *SSAA
“I’m Goin’ Up A-Yonder” (Walter Hawkins, arr. Martin Sirvatka) - Boosey & Hawkes
“Go Where I Send Thee” (Gospel, arr. Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory) - Earthsongs
- “I Could Have Danced All Night” *from My Fair Lady* (arr. William Stickles) - Chappell Music Co.
“If I Fell” (Lennon-McCartney, arr. Mac Huff) - Hal Leonard
“Reflection” *from Mulan* (Wilder, arr. M. Huff) - Hal Leonard

3-part mixed and 3-part mixed (opt. Baritone)†

Composers of note in this category: Lon Beery, Roger Emerson, Patrick Liebergen, Russell Robinson, Carl Strommen

Publishers of note in this category: Heritage, Alfred, Hal Leonard, BriLee, Shawnee

- “Celebrate This Day Together” (Pierre Clereau, arr. Patrick Liebergen) - Hal Leonard **For 3-pt. mxd, perform up minor 3rd*
- “All Ye Who Music Love” (Baldassar Donato, arr. Russell Robinson) - Alfred
- “How Merrily We Live” (Michael East, arr. Russell Robinson) - Alfred
- “Now is the Month of Maying” (Thomas Morley, arr. Russell Robinson) - Alfred
- “Sing We and Chant It” (Thomas Morley, arr. Russell Robinson) - Alfred **Perform 1/2 step higher*
- “Fa Una Canzona” (Orazio Vecchi, arr. Russell Robinson) - Belwin
- “Come Again, Sweet Love” (John Dowland, arr. Brad Printz) - BriLee Music
- “Gloria in Excelsis Deo” *from Gloria* (Antonio Vivaldi, arr. Sherri Porterfield) - Heritage Music Press
- “Swell the Full Chorus” (G. F. Handel, arr. Sherri Porterfield) - Heritage Music Press
- “Alleluia” *from Exultate Jubilate* (W. A. Mozart, arr. Russell Robinson) - Warner Bros. **Says SAB, but is 3-pt. mxd*
- “Ave Verum Corpus” (W. A. Mozart, arr. Joyce Eilers) - Jenson Publications
- “Gloria in Excelsis” *from Heiligmesse* (Joseph Haydn, arr. Donald Moore) - BriLee Music
- “Freedom Song” (Johanness Brahms, arr. Lon Beery)† - Alfred **Based on melody from Symphony No. 1*
- “Dreams”† (Lon Beery) - Hal Leonard
- “I’m Gonna Lift My Voice and Sing!”† (Lon Beery) - BriLee Music
- “Children of Today”† (Lon Beery) - Hal Leonard
- “Inscription of Hope” (Z. Randall Stroope) - Heritage Music Press
- “Soaring Like an Eagle” (Linda Spevacek) - Heritage Music Press **Treble parts divide *Cheesy, but kids love*
- “Gloria Alleluia”† (Emily Crocker) - Hal Leonard **Treble parts divide*
- “Agnus Dei”† (Kinley Lange) - Walton Music
- “Three Contemporary Latin Settings” (Jerry Estes) - Shawnee Press
- “Walk On” (Carl Strommen) - Alfred **Cheesy, but kids love*
- “Stronger With Time” (Carl Strommen) - Alfred **Cheesy, but kids love*
- “Trav’ler” (Mark Wilson and Jane Foster Knoz) - Warner Brothers **Says SAB, but is 3-pt. mxd*
- “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho”† (Spiritual, arr. Lon Beery) - Kimmel Publications
- “This Little Light of Mine” (Spiritual arranged in the style of a Gospel, arr. Neil Johnson) - Hal Leonard
- “Sinner Man” (Spiritual arranged in the style of a Gospel, arr. Roger Emerson) - Hal Leonard
- “Elijah Rock!” (Spiritual arranged in the style of a Gospel, arr. Roger Emerson) - Hal Leonard
- “Now Let Us Sing”† (Spiritual, arr. Lon Beery) - Hal Leonard
- “Ye Banks and Braes” (Scottish Folk Song, arr. Russell Robinson) - Carl Fischer **Optional flute/violin/oboe*
- “Shenandoah” (American Folk Song, arr. Linda Spevacek) - Jenson **Treble parts divide*
- “The Glory of Love” (Billy Hill, arr. Jay Althouse) - Alfred

SAB

- “Celebrate This Day Together” (Pierre Clereau, arr. Patrick Liebergen) - Hal Leonard
- “Praise the Lord” *from Judas Maccabeus* (George Frideric Handel, arr. Hal Hopson) - Harold Flammer Press
- “Cantate Domino” (Heinrich Schütz) - Colla Voce Music Inc.
- “Sing Forth! Give Thanks” (G. F. Handel, arr. Hal H. Hopson) - H. W. Gray
- “Arise! Hear the Beautiful Song” (Henry Purcell, arr. Patrick Liebergen) **Accomp.: 2 flutes, Continuo*
- “Due Pupille Amabili” (W. A. Mozart) - National Music Publishers **Optional clarinet trio for accomp.*
- “All Things Bright and Beautiful (Brad Printz) - Jenson/Hal Leonard **With flute*
- “Come to Me, O My Love” (Allan Robert Petker) - Hinshaw
- “Three Poems from the Chinese” (Edwin T. Childs) - Mark Foster
- “Flower Drum Song” (Chinese Folk Song, arr. Jing Ling Tam) - Alliance Music Pub. **Says SATB, but is SAB*
- “Shenandoah” (American Folk Song, arr. Brad Printz) - Heritage Music Press **Says 3-pt. mxd, but is SAB*
- “Maria Walks Amid the Thorn” (German Carol, arr. Ron Jeffers) - Earthsongs
- “El Mambi” (Romero-Lavilla, arr. Carlos Abril) - World Music Press
- “Winter Light” *from Secret Garden* (arr. Jackie O’Neill) - CPP/Belwin

SATB non-divisi

“Ave Verum Corpus” (William Byrd)
“Ave Maria” (Tomas Luis da Victoria)
“Sicut Cervus” (G.P. da Palestrina, ed. Chester Alwes) - Roger Dean *This publication is called “Motet: Psalm 42”
“Alma Redemptoris Mater” (G.P. da Palestrina)
“Adoramus Te Christe” (G.P. da Palestrina)
“Cantate Domino” (Giuseppe Pitoni)
“If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments” (Thomas Tallis)
“April Is In My Mistress’ Face” (Thomas Morley)
“Come Again, Sweet Love” (John Dowland)
“All Ye Who Music Love” (Baldassar Donato) - Kjos Music
“O Occhi Manza Mia” (Orlando di Lasso) - www.innervoices.org/freemusic
“Dindirin” (anon. 16th century) - www.innervoices.org/freemusic
“Fa Una Canzona” (Vecchi) - Lawson-Gould
“O Music, Thou Most Lovely Art” (Jeep) - Hinshaw
“Psallite” (Praetorius) - Bourne
“Laudate Jehovam...” (George Telemann) - www.innervoices.org/freemusic
“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” (J. S. Bach) - E. C. Schirmer
“Come, Ye Sons of Art” (Purcell) - Kjos
“Gloria” (Antonio Vivaldi) *Pretty much any choral movement
“Gloria” from *Heiligmesse* (F. J. Haydn) - Walton
“Achieved is the Glorious Work” from *The Creation* (F. J. Haydn)
“Great and Glorious” (F. J. Haydn) *Adapted from the “Gloria” of the *St. Cecilia Mass*
“Ave Verum Corpus” (W. A. Mozart)
“Lebenslust” (Franz Schubert)
“Verleih’ uns Frieden” (Felix Mendelssohn) - E. C. Schirmer
“O Schöne Nacht” (Johannes Brahms) - Odhecaton Music Publishing
“The Trysting Place” (Johannes Brahms) - E. C. Schirmer
“Waldesnacht (Wondrous Cool, Thou Woodland Quiet)” (Johannes Brahms)
“The Paper Reeds By the Brooks” (Randall Thompson) - E. C. Schirmer
“Sure On This Shining Night” (Samuel Barber) - G. Schirmer

“Salmo 150” (Ernani Aguiar) - Earthsongs
“Three Madrigals” (Emma Lou Diemer) - Boosey & Hawkes
“Three Contemporary Madrigals” (Eugene Butler)
“Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day” (John Gardner)
“Dirait-On” (Morten Lauridsen) - Southern Publishing *Basses divide, but only briefly
“Resonet in Laudibus” (Z. Randall Stroope) - Mark Foster
“Joy in the Morning” (Natalie Sleeth) *With optional brass ensemble
“Glad We Be This Day” (Wolfe) - Heritage Music Press

“Carol of the Bells” (M. Leontovich) - Carl Fischer
“Deck the Halls (in 7/8)” (Welsh, arr. James McKelvy) - Mark Foster
“Deck the Nutcracker Hall” (*Deck the Hall* words set to *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy* tune, arr. G. Gilpin) - Alfred
“Joyful, Joyful” (Beethoven, arr. Mervyn Warren) - Hal Leonard *High for the tenors

“Erev Shel Shoshanim” (Israeli song of the desert, arr. Jack Klebanow) - World Music Press
“Praise His Holy Name” (Keith Hampton) - Earthsongs
“The Storm is Passing Over” (Gospel, arr. Barbara Baker) - Boosey & Hawkes
“A City Called Heaven” (Gospel, arr. Josephine Poelinitz)
“Keep Your Lamps!” (Spiritual, arr. André Thomas) - Hinshaw
“Three Hungarian Folk Songs” (Matyas Sieber)
“I’se the B’y” (Canadian, arr. Robert Swift)
“Vamudara” (Folk Song from Zimbabwe, arr. Dumisani Maraire) - World Music Press

“Finale from *The Gondoliers*” (Gilbert & Sullivan, arr. Sally Albrecht) - Alfred
“Bye, Bye, Blackbird” (arr. Jay Althouse) - Alfred

SATB divisi

“O Che bon ecco (The Echo)” (Orlando di Lasso) **Double choir, but easy*
“The May Night” (Johannes Brahms, arr. Frackenpohl) **Originally for solo voice*
“Zion’s Walls” (Aaron Copland) - Boosey & Hawkes
“The Last Words of David” (Randall Thompson) - E. C. Schirmer

“Set Me As a Seal” (René Clausen) - Mark Foster
“Oh, My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose” (René Clausen) - Mark Foster
“Festival Sanctus” (John Leavitt)
“Requiem Motet” (Daniel Moe) - E. C. Schirmer

“Hamisha Asar” (Flory Jagoda, arr. Nick Page) - Boosey & Hawkes
“Tres Cantos Nativos...” (arr. Marcos Leite) - Earthsongs

“Finale from *The Gondoliers*” (Gilbert & Sullivan, arr. Henry Clough-Leigher) - E. C. Schirmer
“River in Judea” (arr. John Leavitt) - Shawnee Press

SSATB

“Lirum, Lirum” (Morley) - Galaxy
“Hodie Christus Natus Est” (Jan P. Sweelinck)
“Honor and Glory” *from Magnificat* (J. S. Bach)
“Music, Spread Thy Voice Around” from *Samson* (G. F. Handel, ed. H. Clough-Leigher) - E. C. Schirmer
“O Lord, in Thee Have I Trusted” (George F. Handel, ed. W. Barrie) - Lawson-Gould
“Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves” *from Nabucco* (G. Verdi, arr. Pliska)

“It Was A Lover and His Lass” (John Rutter) - Oxford University Press
“Sing Unto God” (Paul Fetler) - Augsburg
“Musik’s Empire” (Lloyd Pfautsch) - Lawson-Gould
“In Remembrance” (Eleanor Daley)

“How Can I Keep From Singing?” (American Folk Hymn, arr. Matt Culloton) - Hinshaw

Multi-Movement Works for Mixed Chorus

“Gloria” (Vivaldi) - Oxford
“Mass in C Major, K. 317” (Mozart) **This is the Coronation Mass - NOT the “Great Mass” in C minor!*
“Missa Brevis in C Major, K. 220” (Mozart) **Subtitled “Spatzen;” also called the “Sparrow Mass”*
“Kleine Orgelmesse” (Haydn)
“Te Deum” (Haydn)
“Mass in G” (Schubert)
“Requiem” (Durufle)
“Requiem” (Fauré) - Hinshaw **Tenors and Basses divide*
“Requiem” (Rutter) - Hinshaw
“Frostiana” (Randall Thompson) - E. C. Schirmer

Some Bach Cantatas
Several of the late Haydn masses
Some other Mozart masses