

REHEARSAL NOTES for Monday, October 25, 2010

What would it be like to sing your heart out? The famous acting teacher Stanislavski helped Actors connect with their work with his “*magic as if*”. “*As if*” is indeed a magical phrase for Actors -- it allows us to act rather than indicate, to invest our real feelings in our work, rendering it authentic and believable for the audience.”

If we allow ourselves to sing *as if* we are splendid, inspired singers, then we will be! Yes, we use rehearsal to master good techniques and practice all the tiny details. Then we can sing as if the music is pouring out of us. Try it – you might surprise yourself.

Connie Kaplan & I formed **SOS, The Sisters of Swing** with a fellow member of Towne Singers. This season, **SOS** will donate 10% from member sales of our new CD back to the Choir. \$8 each, 2 for \$15, just in time for Christmas! We'll have some at rehearsal on Monday, or you may order. Preview our music at www.sosharmony.com/sos

STILLE NACHT

- 1st Verse, German – we'll hold music / 2nd verse, English – we'll hold candles.
- Such a beautiful arrangement, and we'll need to stay in tune to have the full beauty emerge. Just assume it's going flat, support, give it energy, open up the vowels, and think UP. Mark lots of UP arrows.
- Altos, the tuning will improve if you can sing with more confidence. Sing out, Louise! Lift the roof of your mouth and sing **as if** you have a right to be heard! *Altos*, at m.74, in both parts there are *whole step* intervals. The notes are farther apart than you think, particularly 1st Alto.

BIDI BOM

- Bidi **BOM**, not “bum”. BOM, BOHM, BOME, however you want to write it. Just not “bum”!

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

- Let's sing this **as if** we are Renaissance singers! Or Robert Shaw's choir.
- Men, at your 1st entrance, breathe into an open “OH” shape. Prepare *before* you enter, and the sound will be beautiful.
- At m.45→ m.62, Beth will count “in 4”, or 4 beats per measure. Watch her.
- Also in that section: those little commas mean “take a breath”. Circle and observe them.
- Pitch will sink on this one: Lovely warm, pure vowels and being mindful will help.

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

- Read the Ink. The rhythms are quite different from what we're used to. When we're all together it sounds splendid.

CHRISTMAS BELLS ARE RINGING

- Very crisp until the “I Heard The Bells” section. This arrangement was written to emphasize the BELLS effect. Sing **as if** your voice can ring!

The winds are here, and with them come dry air, the bane of a singer’s existence. Make sure to keep hydrated: drink lots of water, limit caffeine & alcohol, use a humidifier if you have one, or steam over a pot of hot water. Baby your voice!

See you Monday,

Teresa Parente

www.teresaparente.com

www.sosharmony.com/sos

www.christmasmatters.net