

## **War Ponies**

By Dianne Braymen

I selected and directed the following selections that were used in the ICDA Symposium Elementary/ Children Choir Reading Session. The first five pieces I have written the Skill, Knowledge and Affective Outcomes that are part of the approach to teaching in Comprehensive Musician Project. From these outcomes, the director/teacher can form the strategies and assessments.

### **Battle Hymn of the Republic**

William Steffe arranged by Sylvia Munsen

2-part treble voices

Santa Barbara Music Publishing SBMP 441

Piano/ optional Brass Accompaniment available from publisher

Dr. Sylvia Munsen is the Chair of Music Education at Iowa State University and Founder of Ames Children's Choir Program. Active as a clinician from Iowa to national and international venues, Munsen has conducted more than 30 festival and honor choirs including two all-state choirs. She has conducted more than 50 workshops in the past 10 years in Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin; the majority of those sessions has focused on vocal/choral techniques, conducting, and literature for children's choirs and has included demonstrations with choirs. She has been invited to conduct a festival choir at Carnegie Hall in 2006. Kjos Music Company and Santa Barbara Music Company publish her choral arrangements.

Her arrangement starts with unison singing or soloist and then breaks into 2 part singing at the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse with the soprano line singing the melody. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse the altos sing the melody while the sopranos float above in a descant form. It is a wonderful study of the rhythms two eighth notes and the syncopated dotted eighth note followed by sixteenth note. Also take time to try her arrangement of the Star Spangled Banner.

***Skill Outcome:*** Students will sing with accuracy the correct rhythm patterns.

***Knowledge Outcome:*** Students will summarize what they have discovered about the composer and why she wrote this piece.

***Affective Outcome:*** Students will be thoughtful about patriotism and how music has been used throughout history to express patriotism.

### **The Plans I Have for You**

Barbara Sletto

Vocal 2-part

Alliance Publications, Inc. 1-57193-622-X

Keyboard, Trumpet

Barbara Sletto is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Heartland Youth Choir, a civic organization that serves over 150 Central Iowa

singers. The choir in Des Moines, Iowa is divided into five leveled choirs with student's ages 6-18. The program focuses on music literacy, healthy vocal development, and character building. Barbara has guest conducted for numerous All-State choirs as well as various summer choir camps throughout the United States including; the International Music Camp, the Wisconsin Summer Music Clinic, the Indiana Choral Director's Summer Music Institute, the Virginia Kodaly Summer Music Camp, the Drake School of Music Summer Camp, the Heartland Choral Camp, and the International Music Institute. She is a frequent clinician for music educators throughout the United States and teaches a Kodaly certification course at both Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi and Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Barbara has fulfilled twelve commissioned works for treble choirs including commissions for Iowa and Indiana All-State choirs. Her compositions are published with Plymouth Music Company, Colla Voce Publishing, and Alliance Publishing Company

The Plans I Have for You is a piece with great spirit and joy, emphasizing the syncopation and not allowing the meter changes to slow down. The dolce section is a contrast to the rest of the piece with its flowing legato phrases. She has added in the octavo some suggestions in using Orff instruments also.

**Skill Outcomes:** Students will emphasize the syncopation and accurately follow the meter changes in their singing.

**Knowledge Outcomes:** Students will recognize compositional writing that enhances the music's ability to show joy and spirit of the text.

**Affective Outcomes:** Students will express their feelings about the text.

### **Fairest Lady**

Nick Page

Unison treble voices with descant

Boosey & Hawkes M051471799

Piano accompaniment

Fairest Lady is the last piece from Page's "The Nursery Rhyme Cantata". It is a simple lullaby with words that quote the old English lullaby "Golden Slumbers". London Bridge appears in the descant part, but both A and B themes are also based on London Bridge, the first in retrograde inversion and the second in retrograde.

**Skill Outcome:** Students will demonstrate musical independence when singing in two parts with different rhythms (pages 4 & 5)

**Knowledge Outcome:** Students will identify form, descant and how the themes are based on "London Bridge"

**Affective Outcome:** Students express feelings about the message of this melody and text in relation to a lullaby.

## The Water is Wide

Paul Carey  
2-part treble voices  
Oxford University Press 0-19-386691-9  
Piano accompaniment

The accompaniment is written to sound like the gentle flowing of the water. It is a nice selection to work on long phrases and dynamics. The choir sings in unison, 2 part harmony, unison, canon, and finishes in unison.

**Skill Outcome:** Students will make artistic decisions about phrasing based on word stress and phrase shape.

**Knowledge Outcome:** Students will compare how each verse is written musically.

**Affective Outcome:** Students will explore composition techniques used in the piece to express and enhance the text.

## Simple Gifts

Brackett  
Adapted by Aaron Copland  
Transcribed for Chorus by Irving Fine  
2-part voice  
Boosey & Hawkes OCTB1903  
Piano accompaniment

This is an octavo to study Shakers' music, Aaron Copland, and music of Aaron Copland. Brackett is known as the author of the Shaker dancing song *Simple Gifts*, which has become an internationally loved tune, both through his original version, and many of its adaptations. The song was largely unknown outside of Shaker communities until Aaron Copland used the melody in his 1944 composition "Appalachian Spring". It is a wonderful arrangement for two-part singing with a tricky rhythm in the piano accompaniment.

**Skill Outcome:** Singing accurately two-part harmony with dance style

**Knowledge Outcome:** Students will summarize the life of Aaron Copland and his music

**Affective Outcome:** Students will develop a personal philosophy of what simple gifts are to them.

## Metsa Telegramm

Uno Naissoo  
SSA voices  
Fostco Music Press YS 602  
Piano accompaniment/ Rhythm Sticks

This Estonian piece is about saving our environment: "*Tok, tok, tok, comes a signal from the forest, comes an echo like a chorus, breaking*

*through the morning silence; driving deep into our conscience; Save the Forest!"*  
The text is in both English and Estonian with a Pronunciation Guide in the octavo. The music is in ABA form with the A theme giving a steady beat demonstrating warning and B theme flows with the beauty of life in the forest. It is an octavo that the students relate to their lives, one that they love to sing, and one that keeps them singing in the hallways, home, recess, etc.

### **The Shanty Boys**

Ruth E. Dwyer  
2-part treble voices  
Posthorn Press C1015  
Piano, Recorder

This is a great piece for boys' choirs that is written in d minor and in a snappy 6/8 time signature. It is a fun octavo to sing but also a wonderful teaching tool to learn solfege starting the piece on la, the snappy rhythm of o o o o o. and the study of shanties. The accompaniment of the recorder makes the experience of singing the piece complete.

### **America, the Beautiful**

Bates/Ward arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram  
Unison, optional 2-part  
BriLee Music Publishing Co. BL277  
Piano accompaniment

This is a beautiful and sensitive arrangement of one of our favorite patriotic songs. It is an opportunity for the students to sing with beautiful tones, working on vowels, and listening for nice blending. I teach this piece to all of my students. Lower elementary students sing the only melody line and the Intermediate students learn both parts. We use it often in patriotic assemblies, community functions and in the choirs.

### **Old Dan Tucker**

Indiana Folk Song arranged by Shirley W. McRae  
Three Part Treble Voices  
Plymouth Music Co. HL-215  
Keyboard, Temple Blocks, Vibra Slap, Flute

This is another great piece for the boys' choirs which is arranged for three voices but can easily be adapted for two –part or unison singing. It is a favorite because of its fun folk song text and the simple tune. The octavo is enhanced with its playful piano accompaniment and use of percussion and flute.

## **Good Night**

Russian Song Arranged by Doreen Rao

Unison or 2-part treble voices & piano

Boosey & Hawkes OCTB6441

Keyboard, Orff Instruments

Recognized as one of the world's leading experts on children and youth choirs, Doreen Rao founded and chaired the ACDA National Committee for Children's Choirs, pioneering work that inspired the children's choir movement in America. In a national tribute presented to her by the American Choral Directors Association, eminent American conductor Robert Shaw proclaimed, "the world of choral music owes her special thanks. She is preparing our future."

Good Night is a lovely Russian song that was taught to Doreen Rao by the Russian composer Dmitri Kabalevsky and she in turn arranged this octavo. It is a piece to work on phrasing, singing with dynamics and to listen carefully to pitches with some octave and 7th leaps. The legato singing and the added accompaniment of Orff instruments creates the feeling the two composers felt when Kabalevsky taught Doreen the song as a symbol of their friendship.