Choral Pieces for Classroom Aural Training

...graded studies for college instruction

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Introduction

These studies are intended for teachers interested in bringing to their students a systematic method for dealing with group sight singing. The approach presented here was created to enable all students to immediately sight sing in a non-threatening group setting.

In addition, I suggest commenting on aspects of the music that can add to the student’s knowledge of composition and directly effect how he/she listens, writes, and approaches performance. The student is encouraged to draw from their knowledge of theory to help develop their ears and vice versa. The concept of aural analysis is key to understanding this approach and is ideal for students in all the music disciplines.

The pieces can be played on piano (themselves studies for beginning keyboard students) or organ to accompany the class at first, but it is encouraged to guide the class towards acappella singing. The organ is preferable for this type of dictation because of the greater clarity the instrument gives to closely voiced parts, but piano, being usually more available, can be substituted.

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Study VI

1. [3 Part Canon at the Octave]

Each part sings the canon 4 times.

After all parts have finished, sing the final triad as a closing.

Study VII

Study VIII
Study IX  [Canon Inversus at the Fifth]

Alternatively, the lower part can end by ascending to B and then down to E.

Study X  [Introduction to Chromatic Harmony]
Study XI [Canon Inversus at the Third]

Bass should enter only upon repeat.
Study XII  [Invertible Canon]

Study XIII  [Canon at the Sixth]