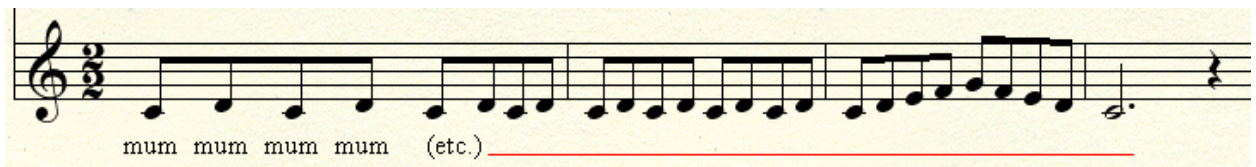


## Lesson Plan

### Men's Choir 11-28-06

#### Warm Up 1:55-2:05PM

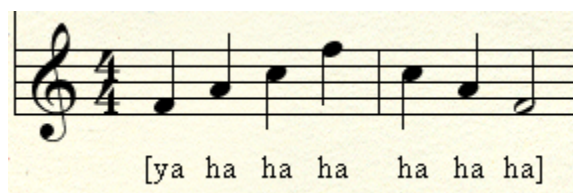
1. Hissing Exercise- quarters, eighths, sixteenths, half notes, whole notes
  - a. Get breath moving, diaphragm engaged and supporting breath movement, get the ensemble's attention
2. High Sigh
  - a. Sense of freedom and relaxation in the voice, connecting entire range of the voice
3. Vocalise No. 6



- b. Initial relaxation of the jaw and freedom in tone production
4. Descending third patterns



- a. Raised soft palate, unification of vertical vowels
5. Arpeggios- staccato and legato



- a. Flexibility of the voice
6. Solfege work- scale in harmony:
  - a. Bass- do do' so, do
  - b. Tenor- do re' do
7. Single voice sight reading with leaps of up to a perfect fourth

# Rehearsal

## **“Mary Had a Baby” 2:05-2:30PM**

1. Discussion of what a spiritual is: A spiritual is an African American song, usually with a Christian religious text. Originally monophonic and a cappella, these songs are antecedents of the blues. The terms Negro spiritual, Black spiritual, and African-American spiritual are all synonyms; in the 19th century the term jubilee was more common (at least among African-Americans; whites often called them slave songs). Some musicologists call them African-American folk songs. How would this affect the style in which we are singing? The timbre? Listen to recording of Aretha Franklin.
2. Performance of the song. Work with the baritone harmonies and the idea of using the y of yes as a springboard to the vowel.
3. How do the roles of the bass and tenor change at measure 37? Why the contrast?
4. Work out other vocal issues as needed.

## **“The Shepherd’s Spiritual” 2:30-2:45PM**

1. Take out the other spiritual we are performing at our Holiday Concert.
2. Discuss the vowel placement of the word “rise”.
3. Use a physical hand placement to help create the needed space for the bass’ [u] vowel. Talk about breathing in on an [a].
4. Discuss the increase in excitement and intensity at the key change at measure 41.