

Term 1 Hot Spots

Listen to your kids sing and check what they are doing at these spots and be fussy, challenge them to improve and make it better each time....

Sea of Flags

- ♪ B37 - please sing "ee- nough" in V2 not 'u-nough' - a lovely choral ee sound at beginning of word sounds much nicer. (like the CD! ☺)
- ♪ Rhythms of B42/43, especially "ce-le- brate" (long short long)!! Insist on accuracy from the start.
- ♪ N.B. – encourage your choir to breathe before or after these NOT at the N.B.
- ♪ No 'American twang' on last in B37 V2 please!! We Aussies sing 'larst'
- ♪ At the end of Chorus 2 B35 make sure 'flags' has a strong supported sound for the full 4 counts, cutting off on beat 1 of B36.
- ♪ B70 – syncopated 'our' – Hope, is, in and Hands are all ON THE BEAT!! 'our' is OFF THE BEAT.
- ♪ Sops need energy in ascending passages – Systems 6,7,8 and similar
- ♪ At letter D make sure the choir extend the words :souls", tune' and 'cel-e-brate"
- ♪ Spend some time securing the notes for 'Hope"...B69 & B93

Tengo

- ♪ LOTS of consonants T on tengo – be 'confident and have attitude – POP those consonants and make the language strong!!
- ♪ B9 "fastidiado" lots of "f" sound to begin word then very quick on "fa-sti-di"
- ♪ Make sure the choir have lots of support before they sing the higher notes, ie @ B11-13, B23 – 25, B30-44.

Migaloo

- ♪ Make sure the 'Fella' in B10 is held for the full 3 counts, different to the first 'fella' in B6 which is only 2 counts.
- ♪ Strong 'C' for 'courage', strong 'T' at end of 'white' – so the audience doesn't hear 'whi fella', but 'whiTe Fella! Diction with 'popping' consonants is paramount!!
- ♪ Again, secure the starting notes at B9, and similar
- ♪ Point out the notes that are the same for each part in S17 – 19 eg.... 'So I take...', 'My voice my soul...', 'Questions ...' and practice slowly.

Into a Fantasy

- ♪ Sopranos keep their 'Oh woah, oh woah' light and not too heavy – like flying / soaring in the clouds, and same with the remainder of the chorus – B33-36. Don't clip these short.
- ♪ Be VERY FUSSY with V2 rhythms!!!! Clap these with the choir and speak the words in rhythm.
- ♪ "Hey!" – the first 2 are on the 4th beat (B23, B46) and the last 2 are after the 4th beat (B60, B86)

The Night Before

- ♪ B6 & B10- end on the notes "D D" (not E D). Be really fussy about the kids singing the F# to the D on words - "the house" and similar, B15, B19.
- ♪ And DICTION / CONSONANTS!!
- ♪ B14 'the' to be pronounced 'thee' – 'thee evening came on.....'
- ♪ B25 /26 - the note G at the end and start of the next bar
- ♪ B28 – practice singing the word 'saw' with a head sound ie they can feel the sound in their nasal passages/cheeks, rather than their throat.
- ♪ Tell the story!

Tick Tock

- ♪ Crisp, short words where the notes are marked staccato.
- ♪ B28 – be careful of the pitch of the notes under lyrics "saw him" D to B^b.
- ♪ Similar B32 with lyrics "-hind him". And same in B53, B57.

- ♫ B33 – 40 Work on starting this *p* and doing a *crescendo* to *f* & similar @ B58-65
- ♫ And in these 3 beat bars, emphasise a real ticking beat

A Soldier's Life

- ♫ In B20, 21 and 22 get the choir to point the notes out eg high, high, low (and for subsequent times)
- ♫ Letter C – detached notes
- ♫ Last 3 bars of the piece – wait for the 4 counts of rest at B77 ie, the Nutcracker is thinking about what it would be like to have a 'normal' life – get choir to say "rest 2 3 4" out aloud, then inside head.

Not Like the Movies

- ♫ Listen to your choir's "s" at the end of travellers B26, and explorers B30 – make sure they are short and crisp!!
- ♫ As you sing the descending passage in B27 and B31 think and point UP to keep pitch up
- ♫ This piece has lovely smooth (legato) phrases which require supported breathing.

Mouse World

- ♫ Be accurate with notes and diction
- ♫ Observe the 2 beat rest at B8, crisp end of word (and similar B10, 12, 24 26 etc)
- ♫ At letter B hold the note A for the full 4 beats
- ♫ Look at the dynamics ie it begins quietly and build up

The Battle

- ♫ At letter E practice slowly for accuracy
- ♫ At B105 – watch out for the rest!

Finale

- ♫ At letter C practice this slowly for a while and secure their starting notes

One Voice

- ♫ Be really particular with the rhythms, and point out the longer words and quicker word patterns. Get the choir to check out the semiquavers with the notes that have the double lines joining them, etc.
- ♫ Be fussy with the cut off / ends of words like in B39 "us" and place the 's' altogether on beat 3, And B41 'trust' etc.....
- ♫ And encourage singing out the vowel sound for the longer words, and adding the end sound RIGHT at the end, Thanks☺

It Feels Good...

- ♫ Include the signing as soon as you can so that it becomes second nature to the choir.
- ♫ B14 – longer 'sing' on beat 3, which is a different pattern to B12 rhythm – BE VERY FUSSY!!
- ♫ Similar at B30 on the word 'if' on 3rd beat.

Live Louder

- ♫ B24 – be careful of notes for word "show-er" which is the same note G G – don't let the kids fall off this too much and "popify" it so it's not even a note on the second syllable.
- ♫ And insist on strong choreography – electric fingers, outstretched, arms rolling forwards with clenched fists, pointed fingers at the end of straight arms for 'dab' position on La La section...

Remember to talk about and practice stage presentation, sparkling eyes and energy in bodies.

We are 'entertaining' at the Enter Centre!!!! ☺ Thanks and keep encouraging the best outcomes!!

*Remember – you can access the signing and choreography on the Festival website through the student leaning portal

Following is the link to an article from Total Choir Resources which you might find interesting....food for thought...

<https://www.totalchoirresources.com/top-tips-help-choir-connect-meaning-song/>