

2008 TMEA Clinic / Convention
Session

What Was I Thinking?
Programming Strategies for UIL Contest

IT'S A CONCERT!

by session contributor

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IT'S A CONCERT!

Concert Contest - What if we put the emphasis on *CONCERT* rather than *CONTEST*? Would we make different repertoire choices? Perhaps, better choices?

UIL Judges are people too and they love a good concert! They are an audience of three. As you consider music selections for your UIL Concert contest performance, it is important to keep in mind the same principles used in planning any well-developed, successful concert program.

Beyond the required UIL Performance Criteria established for all Texas music ensembles, here are several other points to consider in choosing a UIL Contest program:

1. Create a flow of three selections that will sustain interest throughout the performance - that will engage both the audience (judges) and singers.
2. Start strong - this sets the tone for the entire performance.
3. Think in terms of an opener, a closer and a contrasting middle piece.
4. Beware of selections that are too stylistically similar or share the same key, tempo or dynamics.
5. Consider varied languages.
6. Strive to program works of varying historical styles.
7. Choose worthy repertoire that is achievable by your choir. Harder does not necessarily mean better. Vary difficulty.
8. Consider your choir's strengths and weaknesses - Custom fit your selections just for your choir.
9. If possible, preview the concert by listening to good recordings of your selections - listen in concert order, in one sitting. Does the concert have a natural progression? Is there good variety? Is the music engaging? Does it fit your choir? Can you teach the music in the time you have available? When completed, this exercise should have given you an

objective perspective regarding the concert you have chosen.

Remember, choosing a great program with good flow consisting of outstanding repertoire by master composers is not a guarantee of a successful concert contest experience. Obviously, consistent, sequential, focused day-to-day instruction is a MUST! However, a great program will certainly help pave the way to success.

Program Examples

5A Non-Varsity Treble

Jubilate - Curtright
Vere Languores Nostros - Lotti
Great Getting' Up Mornin'! - Goetze

5A Non-Varsity Mixed

Cantate Domino - Hassler
Luci Care - Mozart
Fiddler Man - Rutter

5A Varsity Tenor / Bass

Rise, Up O Men of God - Jennings
Two Liebeslieder Waltzes - Brahms
Ching-A-Ring Chaw - Copland

5A Varsity Treble

Psalm 100 - Clausen
O Magnum Mysterium - Morales
Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day - Rutter

5A Varsity Mixed

Hodie Christus Natus Est - Sweelinck
Dieu! Qu'il fait bon regarder! - Debussy
Zum Gali - Goldman, Arr.