

Hints for Selecting a Successful MS\ HS UIL Choral Concert Program
by

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- 1. Considerations about your ensemble/Know your choir**
 - a. Personnel/Eligibility**
 - b. Ranges/Abilities**
 - c. Sight-reading**
 - d. Strengths/Weaknesses of your singers and accompanist**
 - e. Leadership in each section**
- 2. Choose for the strengths of your ensemble**
 - a. Choose for the beautiful ranges in your choir**
 - b. Consider tuning and keys that fit your choir**
 - c. Choose keys that give you some flexibility to transpose**
 - d. Consider the number of parts for your choir**
 - e. Choose music that fits your choir**
- 3. Voicing**
 - a. Don't put all your strong voices on one part**
 - b. Your choir should be balanced like a pyramid**
 - c. Choose a standing arrangement that enhances their sound**
- 4. Literature Selection/PML Performance Criteria**
 - a. Research the levels of music required for your choir classification**
 - b. Strive for variety fast slow fast/ varied styles and articulations**
 - c. Create a flow of three selections that engage the judges/audience**
 - d. Think of a program with bookends, opener /closer and contrasting middle piece (possibly the a cappella selection)**
 - e. Choose music that allows your choir to demonstrate artistry, musical ideas, phrasing, dynamic contrasts, beautiful tone, word stress, and good diction.**
- 5. Seek out a Mentor/Listen to recordings of your selections**
 - a. Find a Mentor who can help you with your selections**
 - b. Listen to other recordings of pieces you are considering**
 - c. Create a timeline for teaching your music and stick to it**
 - d. Bring in a Mentor to help you prepare your choir**