

Real Repertoire for Women's Choirs: An Extremely Selective Bibliography

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17th century Italian convents:

scores:

Cozzolani, Chiara Margarita. *Two Christmas Motets*: 1. "Quis audivit unquam tale" à 3; "Gloria in altissimus Deo" à 4. Bologna, Artemisia Editions, 1997. www.intr.net/bleissa/artemisia

_____. "Dixit Dominus" (double chorus and continuo). Artemisia Editions.

_____. *Motets*, ed. Robert Kendrick. Madison, Wisconsin: A-R Editions, 1998. www.areditions.com. The preface is very helpful on performance practice.

recording: Cozzolani, Chiara Margarita. *I Vespri Natalizi. Salmi, motetti et dialoghi. Op. 4: Vespers (1650)*. Cappella Artemisia, Candace Smith, conductor. (Tactus #600301)

background reading: Kendrick, Robert L. *Celestial Sirens: Nuns and Their Music in Early Modern Milan*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996.

18th century Venetian ospedali:

Vivaldi, Antonio. *Magnificat*, RV 610, in G Minor (SATB [transpose bass and tenor as necessary], ssa solos, strings & continuo).

Score: Stuttgart: Carus-Verlag CV 40.002. Conductor's score, piano/vocal score, and instrumental parts available separately.

Recording: *Vivaldi: Gloria, Magnificat*. Taverner Choir, Andrew Parrott, conductor. Emd/Virgin Classics #59326.

Porpora, Nicola. "Magnificat" (SSAA, string orchestra, and organ).

Score: Manhattanville College Choral Series, ed. Ralph Hunter. Hal Leonard/Theodore Presser.

Recording: *Music from the Venetian Ospedali*. San Francisco Girls Chorus, Dr. Sharon Paul, conductor (SFGC 9801), available from the chorus: 415-673-1511.

Hasse, Johann Adolf, "Miserere mei, Deus" from Miserere in D Minor (SSAA, strings and continuo), ed. Ralph Hunter.

Score: Treble Clef TC-149 (piano/vocal score; conductor's score, string parts, and continuo realization are available from the publisher).

Vivaldi, Antonio. "Beatus vir," SSAA (revision), ssa solos, strings.

Scores: ed. Joan Whittemore (Score includes string parts and keyboard reduction. String parts, but no continuo realization, are available from the publisher), Alliance Music Publications, Inc., AMP 5009

Background reading: Berdes, Jane L. *Women Musicians of Venice: Musical Foundations 1525-1855*. Oxford, New York: Clarendon Press, 1996.

19th century German Frauenchor repertoire:

Schumann: *Romanzen für Frauenstimmen*, Op.69.

Score: published as “Choruses for female voices,” Peters 2393 (score) and 2393A (separate choral parts).

Recording: No. 1, “Tamburinschlägerin,” and No. 5, “Meerfey” on *Romantic Period Choral Music*. Harvestehude Choir, Claus Bantzer, conductor. Bmg/ArteNova #49683.

Brahms, Johannes. “Regina coeli” (SSAA and ss solos, *a cappella*.)

Score: Brahms, *Three sacred choruses for women’s voices*, Op. 37. New York: C.F. Peters, Edition Peters No. 66141; or Williamstown, Mass.: Broude Bros. BB136. *Drei geistliche Chöre, Op. 37*; or Stuttgart: Carus-Verlag CV 40.701

Recording: *Sing, Choirs of Angels*. Malle Babbe Women’s Choir, Leny Van Schaik, conductor. Sony/Columbia #60660.

20th century French repertoire:

Poulenc, Francis. *Litanies à la vierge noire* (SSA and organ).

Choral/organ score: Durand/Theodore Presser 512000910 (\$19.95); Choral part: Theodore Presser 312412580 (\$1.40).

Recording: *Poulenc: Gloria*. Cambridge Singers, John Rutter, conductor. Collegium #108.

20th century English (and British commonwealth) girls’ schools tradition:

Holst, Gustav. *Songs from “The Princess,”* Op. 20A (SSAA/ssaa).

Score: Novello/Shawnee (POP)

Recording: Holst, Gustav. *This Have I Done for My True Love*. Holst Singers, Stephen Layton, conductor. Hyperion (UK) # 66705.

Luengen, Ramona. “Salve Regina” (SSAA and s solo, *a cappella*).

Score: Cypress CP 1010.

Recording: *Elektra Women’s Choir*, Morna Edmundson and Diane Loomer, conductors. Skylark Records (Canada) 9202CD.

Dienes, Katherine. “Ave verum” (SSAA, sa solos, *a cappella*)

Score: Treble Clef TC-116.

Recording: *Ave, Ave! 20th Century Music for Women’s Voices*. The Saint Mary’s College Women’s Choir, Nancy Menk, conductor. Pro Organo CD 7095.

background reading: Holst, Imogen. *Gustav Holst: a biography*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988. (includes account of his work at St. Paul’s School, Hammersmith)

U. S. Women’s Colleges and Women’s clubs:

Beach, Amy. *The Chambered Nautilus*, Op. 66 (SSAA chorus and sa solos; piano, or piano and organ, or orchestra). Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania: Hildegard Publishing Co., 1994 (piano/vocal

score). Conductor's copy on approval, then sells for \$45. Chorus copies \$3.95 (rental) or \$4.50 (purchase, without covers).

Orchestral score and parts available from New England Conservatory, Boston:

Score: You can purchase a photocopy of the full orchestral score (in manuscript) for \$35.

Contact Jean Morrow (conservatory archives) <jmorrow@newenglandconservatory.edu> or 617-585-1247.

Parts (2 Fl, 2 Cl, 2 Bn, 4 Hn, 2 Trpt, piano, strings): You can rent the orchestral parts for one performance for \$124. Contact Russ Girsberger (orchestra library): rgirsberger@newenglandconservatoy.edu or 617-585-1258.

Recording: No commercial recording exists. A performance at Indiana University, conducted by Elizabeth Lehmann (School of Music 1993-1994 Program no. 698) was recorded but does not circulate via inter-library loan. Canta Lyrica, a women's chorus in Lyndhurst, New Jersey, will be performing and recording the piece in May, 1999. For information on the Canta Lyrica recording, contact Jody Sinkway, 201-445-4287, Fraedela@aol.com

background reading: Adrienne, Fried Block, *Amy Beach: Passionate Victorian*. Oxford University Press, 1998.

Music From World War II:

Arranged and sung in Terezin, the transit camp outside Prague:

Viktor Ullmann, *Five Songs for Women's Voices*. scores: forthcoming from Schott, Germany. **recording:** *Al s'fod = Do Not Lament: Hebrew and Jewish instrumental and vocal works*. series: Terezin Music anthology, v. 4. (Koch International Classics, 1998)

Arranged and sung in prison camps in Sumatra:

Song of Survival. **scores:** published by Harmonia, available through BMG Music Publishing, phone 615-780-5420. contact: Jan Simenson <jsimens@bmge.com>

recordings: *Songs of the Spirit*. Peninsula Women's Chorus, Patricia Hennings, conductor. available from <www.pwchorus.org>

Paradise Road (original motion picture soundtrack) . Malle Babbe Women's Choir. (Sony Classical SK 63026)

background reading: Colijn, Helen. *Song of Survival: Women Interned*. (Ashland, Oregon: White Cloud Press, 1995)

various Yiddish and Hebrew songs:

score: Isaacson, Michael, arr. *Cradle of Fire: Five Settings of Holocaust Songs for Treble Choir* (Transcontinental).

Pockets of interesting repertoire:

check out **scores** from these publishers:

Musica Russica, Musica Bulgarica, and other ethnic presses

Yelton Rhodes Music (gay and lesbian)

Barnwell's Notes (Sweet Honey in the Rock songs by Ysaye Barnwell)

Israel Music Institute (distributed by Presser). contact information is at

<www.choralnet.org>. Follow the trail through resources and links/repertoire/publishers.

and **CD's** from the following choruses and girl groups (many available from Primarily A Cappella):

Anonymous IV, Mediaeval Baebes, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Libana, Sinfonye, Tapestry, Dixie Chicks, Andrews Sisters, Kitka, and various quartets associated with the Sweet Adelines and Women in Harmony.

exact title and contents information at www.amazon.com; use classical music search with many fields; search by ensemble.

Desert island bibliography:

Locke, Arthur Ware, and Charles K. Fassett. *Selected List of Choruses for Women's Voices*, 3rd ed. Northampton: Smith College, 1964.

Seriously dated but invaluable bibliography showing large repertoire from all periods originally composed for upper voices.

Monica Hubbard's repertoire list for women's choruses

Monica Hubbard's women's chorus discography, online at <www.choralnet.org>

MUSICA database at <www.musicanet.org>

Girl power/just for fun:

Blais, Madeleine. *In These Girls, Hope Is a Muscle*. Warner Books (paperback), 1996.

Even if you hate sports, this account of the championship year of the Amherst, Mass. high school girls' basketball team will inspire you.

Plantamura, Carol. *Woman Composers*. Santa Barbara: Bellerophon Books, 1986.

A coloring book. May be ordered from the publisher, 36 Anacapa St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

A League of Their Own. Directed by Penny Marshall. Rent the video before your concert.

Women Composers' poster, available from Hildegard Publishing Co., Bryn Mawr, PA.

Rosie the Riveter poster, notecards, and T-shirts: available from the National Women's History Project, 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492. 707-838-6000

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