

## Here are some ideas for Festival SING 2020 soloists

Successful soloists need confidence and stage presence, as well as vocal accuracy. Remember it is great to have the 'whole package' for auditions and performances. It's more than just singing the notes correctly – presentation is equally important. 😊

### Raining on the Plains: B67-75

- Sing with your natural voice – a nice clear tone, with clear diction.
- Have a light bouncy quality to sing the slower verse and get the bouncy rhythms!
- Connect with the text and 'sing' the story of the dog and what he did – imagine YOU'RE the farmer!!
- Make it heartfelt, put in the *ritardando* (slow down) and then pick up the tempo through bars 74-75.

### Not Perfect

#### Solo 1: Verse 1, B5-16, choir joins in from B17-24

- A voice that is light and flexible from low B<sup>b</sup> with an octave leap up – try to take your head voice down to these lower notes and keep the pitch bright.
- Be exact with the rhythms – they are quite tricky and fit with the lyrics. Have someone listen to you as you practice and make sure your singing matches the soloist on the solo track.
- Clarity in diction - every consonant articulated.
- Consider the message in the song as the choir unites with you in the chorus.
- Activate your face, and put some thought into your presentation.

#### Solo 2: B67-79, Verse 4, choir joins in from B79-86

- A voice that is light and flexible from middle C with an octave leap up – try to take your head voice down to these lower notes and keep the pitch bright.
- Be exact with the rhythms – they are quite tricky and fit with the lyrics.
- Clarity in diction - every consonant articulated.
- Consider the message in the song as the choir unites with you in the chorus.
- Activate your face, and put some thought into your presentation

### Spinning, Spinning: B2-10

- A true choral warm tone would suit this solo.
- Sing with a "north/south" mouth – (vertical shape and space) for beautiful choral vowels – push!
- Clarity in diction, for all beginning and end consonants.
- Legato singing with excellent phrasing / breath control and support.
- Story telling quality with expression and 'sparkle'.
- Energy in eyes and face – standing with a strong body.
- Support your singing with air and aim to sing through the long phrase of each solo.
- Make sure your extended notes are held long enough in contrast to the quick short notes.

### Higher Ground: B5-16

- Channel your inner 'viking' and enjoy this solo – be considered and strong in body presence and expression, yet starting quite softly in volume, think of it being intense, rather than weak and gentle.
- The phrases aren't long, but be very clear with your words, stretching out the tied notes and words – "ships in..... the making.....," "bound for..... a distant shore.....,"
- Ensure the minim notes worth two counts get their full beats – have plenty of air to support your voice.
- And finish off with a strong crotchet beat on the second syllable of pre-vail. Don't hold onto it!
- Really feel a build as you sing and increase the volume and strength from *piano* (*p*) at the beginning, with the *crescendo* (*cresc.*) through bars 13-16 to finish at *moderately loud* (*mf*)
- Practice with the backing track, and sing with the changed voices – tenor and bass parts.

## Sing

### **Singing solo: Verse 1 B25-32**

- This soloist must have stage presence and lots of 'star' attitude.
- A bright sparkling voice to pump out this solo at the beginning of the final song of the concert.
- Flexible voice to bounce on the interesting rhythmic patterns and move across the passagio.
- Start high and bring your head voice down and then back to the middle.... Vocal gymnastics!!
- Confidence to sing out and pass on this message to the audience
- Great diction! Note the instruction at the beginning of the piece – “soulful and aggressive”

### **Rap solo: Bridge B93-100**

- This soloist needs attitude and confidence to speak this rap solo. The words have to be clear and crisp, in rhythm and exact.
- Pop the consonants and exaggerate the words – plenty of attitude!
- Experiment with your voice to find interesting ways to say the part – use a stronger, accented voice to deliver this solo confidently.
- It is a super cool solo – bring your sparkly personality and have fun!