Alto Notes
Nov 2, 2026

- Ted considers us a volunteer chorus, but we are not “amateur.” We aim for professional standards. Remember he talked about his summer frolicking in the forest singing Bach Magnificat–he had to practice and learn it on his own.
- Ted asks that we practice our parts–pick 3 things that you can decidedly feel like you can improve upon—if everyone does their part, we will see the difference.
- In terms of the music, we need to aim high, we have to OWN this!
- Remember our cut-offs have to be exact. Look UP from our music, believe what we sing

Lucky Omens

- Bless//Our//Rites
- Roll R’s
- P. 10–watch articulation of Omens. Should be “O’me-ens”--NOT Oh o-mens
- P.13 Speak in sentences, tonight it sounded too note-to-note. It’s a celebration!
- P.16 Aim for the cut-off–taper the end of the phrase, know the shape

Endless Pleasure

- It’s a Gavotte–the dead-giveaway is the double upbeat.
- At the end, there should be a slight break between “Semele” and “enjoys” (but no space before “above”)

They loathed to drink

- This is the movement we probably need to practice the MOST. So many syncopations and accidentals.
- In the opening phrase “They loathed,” delay the 16th note as much as possible
- Runs should have a slimy quality

He “Spake” the Word

- Listen more to the voices around you–tell the story
- Makes sure you hear the difference between the words “Flies” and “Lice”
- “And there came all manner of flies” should have a suspenseful quality (start soft and crescendo)
- Locusts and “devour’d–it’s a show-offy piece. Think in terms of “Who could tell the story better?”
- Fight for your last word/sort of enjoy interrupting each other

He Gave Them Hailstones

- Act the words, stay strong and confident
- Fire! Hailstones! Fire mingled with the hail!
- Watch the length of the last notes – they’re mostly short
- Rolled Rs please

He Sent A Thick Darkness

- All one voice–listen to each other
- Recitative-like
- Onion-mark, listen to the video–Anna Russell's G and S parody
- A whispery sound; semi-straight tone to help with blending
- Less "r" in "dark" (no American Rs)

He Smote

- "Smote" is short.
- Triumphal tone; sing like the POV of those who wrote it (like they deserved what happened)
- P.45 The stretto in the middle leads into the section on P 46. Then stretto returns.
- P 46, Don't breathe in the rests. Suspend the rests between the notes–rememebr the conductor who held his arms up!

Happy Happy–hold off on learning this one, it might be cut…
Hallelujah