

**Forming a Children's Choir**  
**Alice Hughes**  
**OCA Chatroom 9/19/06**

**Object:** To engage the young people in the life of the church and to raise up the future leaders and singers of the church.

1. Children love to sing.
2. Unison is just fine.
  - a. If you have a couple of more experienced singers you may be able to go to 2-part singing.
3. Begin simply, but with specific goals and regular rehearsals.
  - a. Know in advance when you will have the children sing. Even if it is several months in the future. It will give the children a goal.
  - b. Antiphon verses, communion, antiphonally with the main adult choir, festal troparia or after church in the parish hall for lunch
4. Expect regular attendance.
  - a. Have the children and the parents make a specific commitment.
  - b. Even if it is 30 minutes on Sunday morning after coffee hour.
  - c. If you fill the time, you will usually get them back.
  - d. Make rehearsals fun.
5. Include singing on solfeggio (do, re, mi) and basic music theory. Children can learn this system quickly and will learn music more quickly.
  - a. See the sample exercises and songs.
  - b. It is fine for you to spoon-feed this at first but over time students will learn quickly.
  - c. This will also help with intonation. Use a keyboard or some other instrument to help teach. (If singing in unison, play if possible full chordal structures.)
6. Include basic singing technique – breathing, uniform vowel sounds, pure, clear, and free tone.
7. Include boys with changing voices.
  - a. Keep them singing in their young boy voice.
  - b. Create lower alto parts for them (sometimes a bass part up the octave with minor changes works great.)
8. Decide about what age children you want. Do you want them to be able to read first?
9. Have fun. If you have fun the children are more likely to have fun and learn to love singing. Sing some fun songs.
10. Play the children recordings of other children singing.

# Sightsinging Sheet #1

Hughes

A



do do re do do re mi re do do re mi fa mi re do

6


B



do re mi fa sol fa mi re do sol do re mi fa sol la ti do ti la sol fa


12

C



mi re do do do ti do do ti la ti do do ti la sol la ti do

18



do ti la sol fa sol la ti do sol do fa do sol do

24

D *Arpeggiated Chords*



do mi sol mi do re fa la fa re mi sol ti sol mi fa la do la fa  
I ii iii IV

30



sol ti re ti sol la do mi do la ti re fa re ti do mi sol mi do  
V vi vii I


36

E



do la fa la do ti sol mi sol ti la fa re fa la sol mi do mi sol  
IV iii ii I

42



fa re ti re fa mi do la do mi re ti sol ti re do la fa la do  
vii vi V IV

# Sightsinging Sheet #2

A

la la ti la la ti do ti la la ti do re do ti la

6

B

la ti do re mi re do ti la mi la ti do re mi fa sol la sol fa mi re

12

C

do ti la la la sol la la sol fa sol la la sol fa mi fa sol la

18

la sol fa mi re mi fa sol la mi la re la mi la

24

D *Arpeggiated Chords*

la do mi do la ti re fa re ti do mi sol mi do re fa la fa re

i ii° III iv

30

mi sol ti sol mi fa la do la fa sol ti re ti sol la do mi do la

v VI VII i

36

E

la fa re fa la sol mi do mi sol fa re ti re fa mi do la do mi

iv III ii° i

42

re ti sol ti re do la fa la do ti sol mi sol ti la fa re fa la

VII VI v iv

# Rejoice, Virgin Theotokos

Voskresenski Monastery, Moscow  
English setting: Walter G. Obleschuk

$\text{♩} = 48$

Voice 1

la ti do re do ti do ti la la ti do do

Voice 2

la mi la fa mi sol mi sol la la mi la la

re do ti la do re mi re mi la sol ti la

sol mi sol la la sol do ti la sol sol la

la la ti do do do re do ti lá do re mi la la

la la la la la fa sol la fa mi fa mi

do ti la mi la sol do ti lá la sol

re mi mi la sol do ti la la sol

mi re mi do ti do ti la

do sol la sol sol mi la

## **Solfegge Songs #1**

### **Row, row, row your boat**

Do do do re mi  
Mi re mi fa sol,  
Do do do, sol sol sol mi mi mi do do do  
Sol fa mi re do

### **Are You Sleeping**

Do re mi do, Do re mi do,  
Mi fa sol, Mi fa sol,  
Sol la sol fa mi do, Sol la sol fa mi do,  
Do sol do, Do sol do.

### **America (My Country 'tis of Thee)**

Do do re ti do re  
Mi mi fa mi re do re do ti do,  
Sol sol sol sol fa mi, fa fa fa fa mi re  
Mi fa mi re do mi fa sol  
La fa mi re do

### **Allouette**

Do re mi mi re do re mi do sol,  
Do re mi mi re do re mi do.

### **Bingo**

Sol do do sol sol la la sol,  
Sol do do re re mi do,  
Mi mi fa fa fa,  
Re re mi mi mi,  
do do re re re  
do ti sol la ti do do.

### **Erie Canal**

Mi la la do do do re re  
Mi mi mi la ti do la ti la  
Mi mi la la do do do re re  
Mi mi mi la ti do la ti la

### **When Johnny Comes Marching Home**

Mi mi la la la ti do ti do la sol mi sol, Mi mi la la la ti do ti do re mi do mi,  
Do re mi mi mi re do re re re ti do do do ti la ti ti ti do re mi re do ti mi la la la so la.

### **Heigh Ho**

La sol la la mi, La la ti do do do ti, Mi re mi re mi re mi re do ti, La sol la la mi.