**Tips About Reading The Sheet Music**

* Always listen to the learning CD. It may reflect interpretive changes from the sheet music that the chorus will be expected to know.
* Our music arrangements typically show two parts on each staff. Tenor and Lead in the treble clef. Baritone and Bass in the bass clef. Tenor notes and baritone notes are the notes with the tails up. Lead and bass notes have the tails down. You may find it helpful to highlight your part on the sheet music.
* We sing the notes in the bass clef an octave higher than they are written on the sheet music.
* An “X” above a note in the treble clef indicates that for this note the leads are singing above the tenors.

**Twelve Step Learning Program**

This is a 12-Step program to assist you in learning your music. As you gain experience learning your music you may develop your own system that works best for you. We encourage you to try this system as many have found it effective for accurately learning all aspects of a new song. The success of this program is contingent upon the effective learning skills of the learner … much more than upon the musical background or ability to read music.

Any of the 12 steps may be repeated before continuing on to the next step. But remember … EACH step is important to the overall successful results of learning ALL the right notes, words and timing of the new song.

DO NOT eliminate any of the steps because they may appear insignificant to you.

1. Listen to the music on the master track while you close your eyes. (This will familiarize you with the notes and timing and general flavour of the song.)
2. Watch the notes on your music while you listen to the appropriate part specific track. Do not sing yet.
3. Again … Watch the notes on your music while you listen to the part specific track. Do not sing yet.
4. Watch the words on your music while you listen to the track. Do not sing yet.
5. On a separate piece of paper write down all the lyrics to the new song. Now, watch your own paper while you listen to the track. Continue to watch and listen, not sing.
6. Watch the notes again while you listen to the track. Do not sing yet.
7. Watch the words on your music while you listen to the track. Do not sing yet.
8. Try to write down all the words again on a separate piece of paper without looking at your printed music. If you have trouble, listen to the track again. Watch the words and then try writing it again without looking. Stay on this step until you have all the right words written without looking back at the printed music. Now proceed to Step 9.
9. Now watch the notes on your music while you hum (not sing) along with the track.
10. Watch the words on your music while you SING along with the track. If you have any difficulty, circle the spot on your music as you go all the way through. Then go back and listen to (don’t sing) those parts again.
11. Set up your recorder[[1]](#footnote-1). Now, into your own recorder, SING the new part all the way through without looking at your music.
12. VERY IMPORTANT STEP - Watch your music and listen to your own recording and see if you are correct. You should be wonderful! But … should you have any doubt, go back and check your part again on your master tape. Concentrate on listening to the parts you circled earlier to be sure you have made corrections.

With a little bit of luck plus all your hard work, you are now the proud possessor of one more selection of music made beautiful by your addition of … all the correct notes, words and timing!

1. Free voice recorder apps are available for all smartphones. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)