

CHORAL COMPOSING GUIDE

1. TEXT

- Select texts that are meaningful to you, yet relevant to others
- Seek lesser known texts: poems, prose, hymns, quotes
- Use texts in the public domain, or be sure to obtain permission

2. FORM

- Before writing a note, create a roadmap for your piece
- Break the text into sections
- Determine the overall form, and also consider dynamics, tempos, style, etc.

3. RHYTHM

- Spend quality time speaking and observing the text before composing any notes
- Create rhythms that compliment the text
- Create rhythms that are natural to speech

4. MELODY

- Create a melody that compliments the text
- Create a melody that is singable
- Create a melody that is enjoyable and memorable

5. HARMONY

- Create harmonies that support the text
- Create harmonies to support melodies
- Use harmonies to add interest and variation

