

GRUNT WORK

This method works best when you are about 95% proficient on notes and words. This is the pattern typically used for a contest song. If the melody falls in another part, treat that part as the “lead” for that section of the song.

- 1) Sing through the entire song in 4 parts and record for posterity.
- 2) Section out the song as you will work each section independently. (Intro, first page, etc.)
- 3) Sing the first section **in unison on melody**.
 - a) Lead sings melody, alone, for the trio. Trio uses chart to follow along if necessary. (Feel free to make notes for yourself!)
 - b) Trio then joins the lead to sing the first section, in unison on melody, several times. You are concentrating on space, placement, resonance, vowel matching, diphthongs, sync, pacing, timing, interpretation...ALL THE THINGS! The goal is to sound like one voice.
- 4) **Bass and Lead** sing the first section together **in unison**.
 - a) Bari/Tenor listen and coach.
 - b) Sing as many times as needed to make sure everything is aligned.
- 5) **Bass and Lead** sing the first section together **on own parts**.
 - a) Bari/Tenor listen and coach.
 - b) Sing as many times as needed to make sure everything is aligned.
- 6) **Bari and Lead** sing the first section together **in unison**.
 - a) Bass/Tenor listen and coach.
 - b) Sing as many times as needed to make sure everything is aligned.
- 7) **Bari and Lead** sing the first section together **on own parts**.
 - a) Bass/Tenor listen and coach.
 - b) Sing as many times as needed to make sure everything is aligned.
- 8) **Tenor and Lead** sing the first section together **in unison**.
 - a) Bari/Bass listen and coach.
 - b) Sing as many times as needed to make sure everything is aligned.
- 9) **Tenor and Lead** sing the first section together **on own parts**.
 - a) Bari/Bass listen and coach.
 - b) Sing as many times as needed to make sure everything is aligned.
- 10) Sing the section, on parts, with all possible trios (Lead may finally get a break - yay!).
 - a) Tenor, Lead, Bari (Bass coaches)
 - b) Tenor, Lead, Bass (Bari coaches)
 - c) Lead, Bari, Bass (Tenor coaches)
 - d) Tenor, Bari, Bass (Lead coaches)
- 11) Sing the section with all 4 parts singing their own parts, until you are happy with the product.
- 12) Continue with the next section of the song, repeating steps 3-11.
- 13) Sing the worked sections together (ie. Sections 1 & 2) before moving on to the next section. Repeat all steps above until you have made it through the full song.
- 14) Repeat any steps, as necessary.
- 15) Once you have done Grunt Work on all sections, sing the song all the way through and record again. Listen to both recordings for comparison.

GRUNT WORK

CHORUS USE

Can be used in several ways for choruses

- Modify for use in sectionals, to align the entire vocal section.
- For duetting/trioing vocal sections, making sure everyone is on the same plan
- To make sure the desired vocal plan is clearly communicated by the Director.

INDIVIDUAL USE

This plan can be modified for individuals:

- Using an interpretation recording from rehearsal, or if the learning media provided matches the interp closely, sing with the recording and use a 2nd device to record yourself. Listen and coach yourself.
- For duetting: Sing with another “Only” vocal track. (Bass Only, Tenor Only, Bari Only, Lead Only) and use a 2nd device to record yourself. Listen and coach yourself and use a 2nd device to record yourself. Listen and coach yourself.
- Sing against “Your part missing” track and use a 2nd device to record yourself. Listen and coach yourself.