

Rhonda Miller, Southern Division JH/MS R & S Chairperson Recommends:

Niska Banja Nick Page SSAA(flexible) 4 hand piano Boosey & Hawkes/B6517

The lively rhythms are both challenging and fun. The words are fun to pronounce once you learn how, and the boys can easily double any of the parts. Much repetition makes it sound harder than it actually is.

Birdsong Paul Read SA Piano Boosey & Hawkes/B6951

The text was written by a child in a Nazi concentration camp and it boggles the mind that someone in such a horrible situation can show such strength of character and such recognition of beauty in spite of being treated so poorly. It's a real testament to the human spirit. The melody is stunningly beautiful.

**Ton The' Jeannie and Robert Gilmore, arr. Susan Brumfield Two-part/piano with optional xylophone and drum set
Colla Voce/20-96350**

This is a French tongue twister set in a folksong style. It's light, lively and a good piece to teach on solfege (great as in intro to solfege for 6th graders) - lots of scalewise movement.

**Can You Hear James Papoulis and Francisco Nunez SAB piano - fun to add drums too but no written part
Boosey & Hawkes/M-051-474998-1**

Students love the "pop" feel of this piece - yet you can teach it using appropriate vocal techniques! It includes opportunities for solos or small group features, and it's a great opportunity to teach changing meters.

**The Belle of Belfast Judith Herrington and Sara Glick Two-part/piano with optional flute and drum Pavanne
Publishing/P1225**

This is a charming folk song that captures students' attention with its subject matter of boy meets girl. It's very singable - yet the parts do some flip flops that require singers to stay on their toes and to pay attention to the notes on the page.

Douglas Armstead, Central Division JH/MS R & S Chairperson Recommends:

Child of the Universe Craig Cassils Uni/SA Hope 1668912

Child of the Universe, Let your spirit fly, You are the special one, and here's the reason why..." Every child asks the question: "Where do I fit in, in this Universe?" This uplifting number with its exceptional text answers this question in a very positive way. Add Sign language to the chorus.

Celebrate This Day Together Cleueau, P./Liebergen, P. SSA Hal Leonard 3085917

This energetic and rhythmic 16th-century piece is an excellent introduction to the music of the Renaissance. Includes secular or Christmas lyrics and optional hand drum.

Festival Song Dave/Jean Perry SAB Alfred 3285772

This well-crafted piece is perfectly designed for young and developing two and three-part choirs. Bright rhythms, memorable melodies and well-written counter lines all add to the excitement, with judicious repetition included for easy learning. Sing this all year after you learn it in September.

Jubilate Deo Jay Althouse SATB Shawnee 1671627

This outstanding work truly celebrates life through song. From a captivating a cappella opening to a driving finale, this piece will let your singers sound their very best. The keyboard accompaniment supports the vocal lines with exciting rhythmic contrasts. The mixed Latin and English text creates a unique concert selection that is perfect for any concert program.

Come On, Boys Lynn Shaw Bailey TB Brilee 3298156

The call to travel on the open rails is heard in this meat-and-potatoes arrangement for young male choruses by Lynn Shaw Bailey! With quotes of Swing Low Sweet Chariot and This Train Is Bound For Glory, this rousing choral will have a wonderful appeal and will encourage hearty singing from your young men. Highly recommended!

Peg Hutson, Western Division JH/MS R & S Chairperson Recommends:

I Am the River Amy F. Bernon 3 pt mixed/ or SATB piano Heritage

The 3pt Mixed is a chestnut that every middle school teacher can use to show both quality music and language arts skills: simile / metaphor /emotional connection

Come Travel with Me S. Farthing TBB (more like TTB) piano Walton Pub.

Excellent piece, based on Walt Whitman's *Song of the Open Road*

Maidens, Remember (Jeune Fillette) Dalayrac/Arthur SSA piano/flute or violin BriLee BL300

Madrigal like feeling; good for a first French piece; English included; a master composer, skillfully arranged by J. Arthur.

The River Sleeps Beneath the Sky M. L. Lightfoot 3pt mixed/ SSA piano Lorenz

Lightfoot's poignant setting of the poem "Sunset" by African-American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar overflows with teaching possibilities. The music weaves between major and minor, with superbly crafted vocal lines and a sensitive, supportive accompaniment, until it ends in quiet splendor with a whispered "Sunset!" A stunning work!

Ise Oluwa Ron Kean SATB / 2 or 3 Parts piano/ rhythm Pavane Pub

This is a wonderful multicultural piece that can be handled by most middle school choirs. There is also a video which shows drumming, movement, and correct pronunciation.

Gretchen Harrison, National JH/MS R & S Chairperson Recommends:

Sesere eeye Trad. Torres Strait Island/arr. Doyle SSA or flexible Accap. with percussion and movement
Mark O'Leary YVM058

This piece will work for any type ensemble you teach. Men's voices can be accommodated on different octaves. Simple movement adds to the piece. Tropical animal and bird sounds can be added in an improvisational manner to increase the timbres and texture.

O Sing! Rejoice! G.F. Handel/arr. P. Liebergen SATB piano w/trumpet (opt.)
Carl Fisher CM8529

This joyful piece is a terrific introduction to Baroque style for a good junior high mixed choir. It's joyful, strong and allows for great development of tone early in the year.

Diindirin Spanish/Ruth Gray Morris SATB Accap. with percussion (opt.)
Alfred 31065

The poetry is from 15th century Spain. Changing meters, repetitive text, interesting percussion and a homorhythmic structure make this piece an excellent introduction to Renaissance style. The women's parts divide, so you need to have enough treble voices to cover the very harmonic divisi sections.

Du bist die Ruh Franz Schubert/Peter Eklund SSA Piano SBMP 767

This lovely SSA arrangement of the traditional high voice solo is a beautiful introduction to the Romantic Era Art Song form. Editor markings aid in the interpretation of the piece. This piece would be excellent for a very good middle school or junior high women's chorus. It would also be a lovely festival piece for a women's group.

Feel Good Craig Tyson, Leonard Scott/arr. Barbara Baker, David Elliott 3-pt Treble Piano
Boosey and Hawkes OCTB6711

Who wouldn't want to feel good at the beginning of the year? According to the cover notes by Barbara Baker, this piece should be performed with "joy, enthusiasm and exuberance"! This piece is guaranteed to wake up your choirs, stir up your audiences and have everyone leaving the performance hall with a smile. It is from the repertoire of the contemporary Black Gospel genre. Enjoy!