

Dear LRCC Members,

Here are the Rehearsal Notes from last Monday's rehearsal – September 28, 2026.

Charlie's Rehearsal Notes:

African Noel is starting to gel beautifully. My request, once again, is that the overall speed needs to be faster and the goal is to establish some buoyancy in the performance. This can be accomplished by not singing quite so loud at the beginning and focusing on more speed in the pronunciation of the text. The "layer cake" entrances of "Sing we all Noel" starting on measure 15 on page 5 and "Sing" starting on measure 27 on page 7 need a clear crisp articulation of the text. This section also switches from 4 beats per measure to 2 beats per measure. I will do my best to cue each entrance during these two sections. Measure 31 on page 7 marks the start of the concluding section, and gives everyone a chance to express the joyful mood of this piece to the fullest extent possible. Once again, altos have the most important part starting at measure 36 on page 8, indicated by (boldly), but this is shared by the basses starting at measure 43 on page 9. Please be mindful of the dynamics (amounts of loudness or softness) starting at measure 39 on page 8. The entire chorus starts to soften until we are quiet on measure 47 (last page). Watch carefully for the fermata (a dot with a curved line over it) in the very last measure. As the conductor, I can decide how long this note should be. The last two notes are sung softly, like an echo.

I had a wonderful time listening to your rehearsal of "**The Christmas Tree Feud**". There is not much to add - have fun with this piece. Those of you who sing part two have lots of text to conquer. I promise not to go too fast. Be aware that this part sometimes gets rushed by some vocal groups, and that is a natural human tendency when the text gets wordy, so be alert for this possible trend as you sing. This is also shaping up nicely - keep up the good work.

Next week, I will devote my entire time to "**Jingle ALLL the Ways**", as Patrick is expected to be back with us. If he is not at rehearsal for some unforeseen reason, I will instead focus on "**Long Ago (In the Bleak Midwinter)**" and "**I Saw Three Ships**". Please practice those pieces using the recordings on the website. My colleague, Rick Nickerson, who retired from RSU 14, has told me the main reason choirs sing out of tune is that members don't know how their parts are sung. With all the recordings available to choirs today, this helps eliminate that situation.

I look forward to rehearsing again next Monday.

Charlie

Jan's Rehearsal Notes

Brightest And Best – This piece is coming along nicely. We went over voice parts on P.5, M. 25, P. 8, M. 60, P. 10, M. 83 – Basses, Baritones and Tenors, P. 11, M. 91, - Alto I, Alto II and Sopranos. We worked on all parts on P. 12, M. 99. Please note that we cut out Measures 116 through Measures 123 on P.13 (sing through M. 115 and continue on M. 124 on P. 14. **We will review these measures next week and then sing through the piece.**

Adeste Fideles – We went over part on P. 6, M. 43 through the end of P. 7. The descant is coming along nicely on P. 8, M. 60.

Then we ran the whole piece. **Please be aware of the dynamic markings while practicing at home.**

Carry the Light – We focused on going over parts from the pickup to M. 25 on P. 5 – M. 33. **Next week we will concentrate on working on parts from the second ending to the end of the piece.** Don't forget that the first ending is ten measures long.

NEXT WEEK – We will spend the majority of time going over the notes and rhythms of **Winter Wonderland**. Please listen to this piece on the Lake Region Community Chorus website and then follow along with your individual part. Note the "Happy Swing" rhythm. This piece is challenging and a lot of fun. I am really looking forward to begin working on it with you.

Thank you,

Jan