

**“Sing Smart”**   
with  
**Nancy Callahan**

**The Tampa Oratorio Singers**

Presents



An 8-session educational program for singers focused on music theory, sight-reading and vocal mechanics

**“*Sing Smart*” Outline**

Although this project has been more time-consuming than I had originally projected, I have really enjoyed putting these classes together. I have tried to share whatever I have absorbed over the past “MANY” years. I hope that I will continue to learn and share…..along with you.

*Nancy Callahan, Summer 2020*

**Session #1: Elements of Music - Rhythm**

* Pulse /Beat
* Note Values
* Bar Lines / Time Signature
* Reading Rhythms
* Simple and Compound Meter
* Count-Singing
* Conducting Patterns

Handouts:

#1 Speed Markings

#2 Conducting Patterns

#3 Counts-Singing Exercises

**Session #2: Music Notation**

* Pitch (Musical Alphabet)
* Staves
* Grand Staff
* Clefs
* Note Recognition – on Grand Staff / on Piano
* Whole and Half Steps
* Accidentals (# b X bb Natural)
* Pathagorus
* Temperament
* Circle of Fifths
* Major Scales and Key Signatures

Handouts:

#4 Notes on Staff and Piano

#5 Circle of Fifths

#6 Major Key Signatures

#7 Sight Reading

**Session #3: Scales, Intervals, Chords & Cadences**

* Scales (Scale Degrees)
  + Major
  + Minor (Natural, Harmonic, Melodic and their Signatures)
  + Pentatonic
  + Whole Tone
* Intervals
* Chords
  + Major
  + Minor
  + Diminished
  + Augmented
* Inversions
* Cadences

Handouts:

#8 Scale Degrees and Chord Structure

#9 Intervals and Sight-singing exercises

#10 Cadences

**Session #4: Diction – English & Latin**

* English
  + Vowels
  + Consonants
  + Diphthongs
* Latin
  + Vowels
  + Consonants
  + Pronunciation of the Mass in Latin (p. 128, 129, 130)
  + Pronunciation of the Requiem in Latin (p. 130, 131, 132)

Handouts:

#11 Latin pronunciation

#12 English Vowel and consonant chart

**Session #5: Intonation**

* Singing flat:
  + Descending Passage
  + Repeating Notes, Same Pitch, in a Row
  + Repeated Passages
  + Approaching the End of a Long Phrase
  + Vocal or Mental Fatigue
  + Breath Support
* Singing sharp:
  + Ascending Passage
  + Singing in the Stratosphere
  + Hyper Personalities
* Both sharp and flat:
  + Notes Insecure
  + Rhythm Insecure
  + Vowels not Unified
  + Tessitura is Difficult
  + Vocal Production is Problematic
  + Vibrato is not Unified
  + Singing too Softly
  + Singing too Loud

**Session #6: Vocal / Choral Warmups & Tonal Quality**

* Vocal/Choral Warmups
  + Physical Exercises
  + Breathing Exercises
  + Vocal Exercises
* Tonal Quality
  + Posture
  + Resonance
  + Breath Support
  + Focus
  + Placement
  + Vibrato
  + Listening Ears

**Session #7: Musical Terms, Effects & Symbols**

* Speed Markings
* Italian Modifiers
* Changes of Tempo
* Dynamic Markings
* Articulation
* Phrasing
* Ornaments
* Lyrics
* Symbols (p. 115, 116)
* Musical Terms and Abbreviations (p. 117, 118)

Handouts:

#13 Changes of Tempo

#14 Dynamic Marking

#14 Speed Markings

#16 Italian Modifiers

#17 Articulation

**Session #8:**

* Concert / Rehearsal Etiquette
* Score Markings
* Expectations of Singers
* Page Turns
* Classical Musical Forms

**Works Cited:**

*The Choral Singer’s Handbook* by Roy C. Bennet Marks Music Co.

*First Time Bars* by Ian Assersohn self published

*Beyond the Downbeat* by Sandra Willetts Abingdon Press