



Choir Virtual Learning

Women's Choir/On the Lighter Side-Choral Music of Pop, Stage and Screen

May 22, 2020



Lesson: May 22, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: Students will be introduced to choral music for pop, stage and screen.

Bell Work:

Yesterday we talked about various genres of choral music.

1. Do you recall how to define a genre of music?
2. What are the genres we discussed?

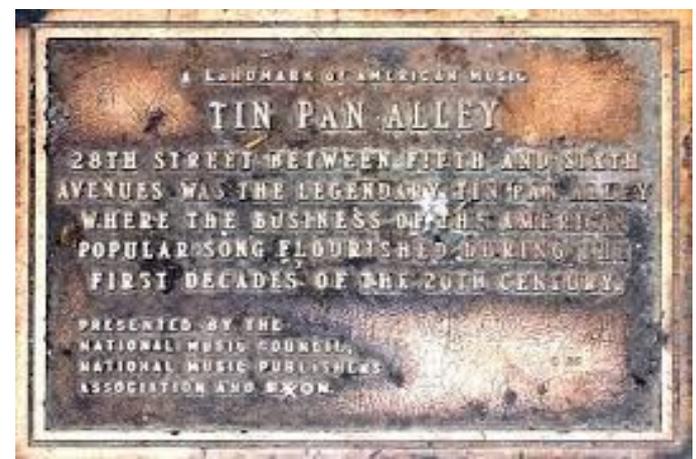
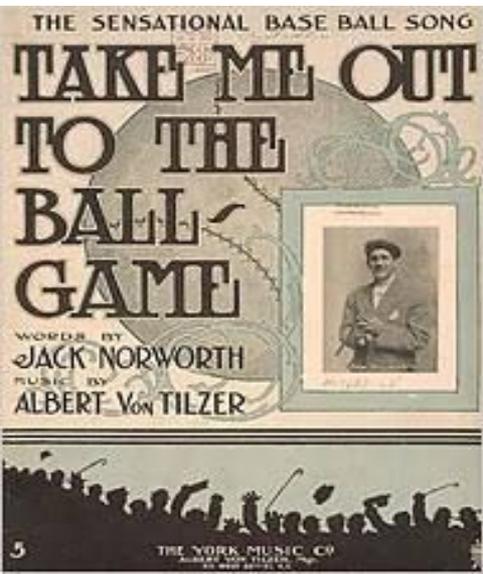
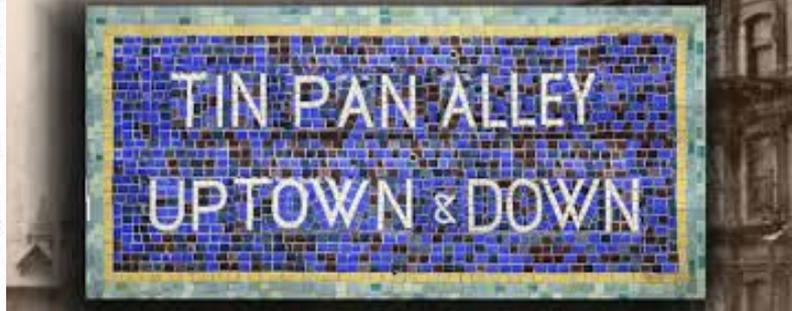
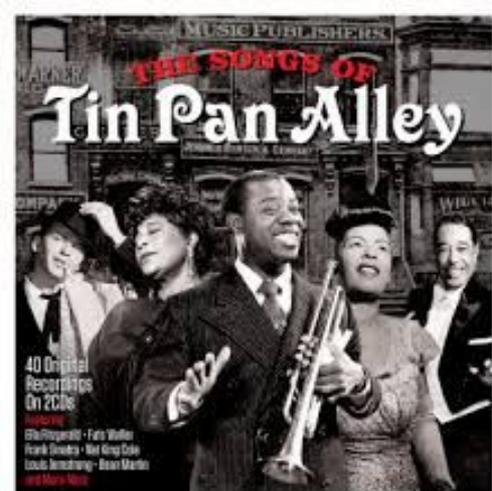
Today we will be talking about choral music from the pop, stage and screen genres. These secular genres have found their way in to choral music and have become popular for lighter arrangements during concerts, as well as large pop concerts performed at the end of the school year.



Choral Music Meets Pop Culture

Arrangements of popular songs dates all the way back to the late 1800's as a cappella groups known as Barbershop groups, arranged and performed popular songs of the day.

Additionally, a place called Tin Pan Alley was going strong from about 1885-1930's. It was the popular music publishing center of the world. It was located on West 28th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenue in New York City. You could walk on 28th Street and hear all of the pianos plunking out notes as publishers were working to write as many songs as possible. The term Tin Pan, was sort of slang meaning, "decrepit piano". Hundreds of these pianos would be playing at once filling the streets with sounds that emulated pounding on tin pans. Thus, Tin Pan Alley was born.



A look back...

As time progresses, these treasures from Tin Pan Alley began to become rearranged for choirs. Additionally, the first musical, Show Boat, had its first stage debut in 1927 and silent movies make their debut in the 1920's as well. With the advent of new pop culture genres comes the opportunity for new music to be produced. And with that production, came opportunities to make it available to the masses in as many different ways as possible. Let's listen to the sounds of old.

Tin Pan Alley- The Sidewalks of New York-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsdLIGyJ5mQ&list=PLLfpdhJ31KbPUSgtku4Bg4xzDWnrNFmUX&index=2>

Silent movie clip from the movie Modern Times- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bp3uGJu-kIE>

Dance scene from Show Boat- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZprGYcQ-HI>

Fast Forward to Present Day

Now that we know the history of pop, stage and screen music, we can make the connection to what is going on presently. We are exposed to lots of different popular genres of music, musicals and films. Let's take a look at each one of these genres and listen to some of the choral opportunities available.



Pop Music

From Tin Pan Alley to present day, pop songs have been transformed into choral arrangements. Choirs around the world have access to popular music as they add variety to their concerts. These arrangements are inspired by pop performing groups and also TV shows that feature group singing as well as solo singing.

Bohemian Rhapsody- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9kTEQtB_yY

Rise Up- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7OXDo0aNsk>

Africa- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xacK0QgDyY>



Stage Music

Musicals have been a great source of material for choral music arrangers. There are many songs from musicals that have been arranged for choir. Let's listen to a few.

For Good-Wicked- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LM33tPAqwYo>

Dancing Queen-Mamma Mia- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnfsbzmR6AU>

On the Street Where You Live- My Fair Lady-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBbvK85BscU>



Film Music

Lastly, music from films is beginning to show lots of promise in the choral world. Disney has been a large contributor to material for choral arrangements. Other box office hits outside of Disney have contributed a great deal as well. Here are a few examples of film music arranged for choir.

This is Me-The Greatest Showman-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doFgPcanNx0>

How Far I'll Go- Moana- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6oPA_MjIG6o

Joyful, Joyful- Sister Act II- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KP3XizrZHQ>



In Conclusion...

There are so many more songs that represent the greatest of pop, stage and screen music from 1900-present day. This has allowed choirs to access this music and bring it to life in a choral setting. It has also allowed for some music that may have not been as popular to be revived. As long as pop music, musicals and films continue to be written, choral arrangements of this music will follow. Choral directors all over the world understand how important it is to program these types of numbers as they are often times the driving force behind young singers choosing to sing.



Extra Practice!



- What are some of your favorite pop songs, songs from musicals and movies?
- Can you find choral arrangements of that music?
- After listening, would they be something you'd be interested in performing with your choir?



Thank You...one last time!

If you're reading this, you've completed your final online lesson for the 2020 school year in Women's Choir. I hope you have enjoyed the lessons, that you have continued building your musical skills, learned new information and that you are happy, healthy and well. Thank you for your hard work to complete lessons that were not required. It shows great strength of character as well as the drive and grit it takes to continue to perform academically during this time. Congrats on finishing strong! Well done!

