

Name _____ Date _____

Spotlight on Performance Script

Festival of Voices

Costume/Prop Suggestions

The four main characters (Karen, Heidi, Sam, and Charlie) are dressed in regular school attire, while the Choir can be more creative with raincoats, rain hats, and so on. The only essential props are a laptop and an MP3 player. These do not have to work. They are for visual purposes.

Set Suggestions

There is no set necessary for the four main characters; however, carry on set pieces/props can be useful during the choir numbers. These are obvious such as fishing poles for "The Trout," rain gear and animals for "Didn't It Rain." Have students study the lyrics and come up with ideas.

Script Begins

Song 1: Dona Nobis Pacem, p. 335

Karen: That was really beautiful. I'm not sure exactly what they were singing about, but somehow or other I was moved... even though I didn't understand all the words.

Heidi: You don't have to understand something to appreciate it or even love it.

Sam: You're right. There are lots of things that I don't understand, but I like.

Charlie: *(very skeptically)* Like what?

Karen: Like the music we just heard, I didn't understand the Latin words, but it was still beautiful.

Charlie: I don't like anything that I can't understand.

(He puts his headsets on and starts listening to music. Heidi taps him on the shoulder and gestures for him to remove his headsets and he does as she says.)

Charlie: *(irritated)* What?

Heidi: Charlie, could you explain to me how the batteries in your MP3 player work?

Charlie: You just open up the back, put in the batteries and voila... it plays.

Heidi: But I mean, how does the signal from the batteries make the MP3 player play the music?

Charlie: Well, it's from the battery charge. You know, like AA batteries... uh, you know... like, uh... *(obviously not knowing what to say)* uh, you know the batteries that you put in the back of the... well. *(frustrated)* Well you don't have to understand how batteries work to like to listen to an MP3 player. You're just trying to trick me into saying that I like music in Latin.

Heidi: I am not. I'm just saying that you have to be open minded to new things—new kinds of music. And you've got to realize that you don't have to understand something completely before you can enjoy it.

Charlie: I like the tunes I've downloaded on my MP3 and that's all the music I need. I don't need any other music, but it does sound like I need some new batteries. I'll be right back. I have some in my locker.

(Charlie exits stage right and leaves his MP3 player with them.)

Karen: I have an idea.

Heidi: What?

Karen: You have your laptop don't you?

Heidi: Yeah, why?

Karen: With the music from the choral festival?

Heidi: Yeah, why?

Karen: Well, *(looking at the MP3 player)* I thought we might do a little downloading...

Heidi: I'm down with that!

Sam: Me, too!

(Karen, Heidi, and Sam connect the laptop and the MP3. They manage to do the download and disconnect them before Charlie enters stage right.)

Charlie: *(picking up MP3 player, putting the batteries in, and putting headsets back on)* Finally, some good music. *(He sits back, closes his eyes and pushes play.)*

Song 2: All Ye Who Music Love, p. 336

(Charlie remains seated eyes closed looking as though he is enjoying the music.)

Sam: Well, what did you think?

(Charlie is startled.)

Charlie: I don't remember downloading that. But it was... okay. I mean, it didn't have a beat I could dance to, but it was... all right.

Karen: Okay, Charlie, you need a beat you can dance to. Take a listen to this.

(Karen hands him her headsets. This is big production number with lots of movement. Either free form movement or choreographed movement would work.)

Song 3: N'kosi sikelel' iAfrika, p. 339

Charlie: Okay, you've convinced me. I admit it, although it's not easy to do, that you're right. You don't have to totally understand something to appreciate it. Those last two songs were actually, *borderline* cool.

Heidi: I'm moved by your overwhelming enthusiasm.

Karen: Baby steps, Heidi.

Charlie: Okay, I'm going to try to be more open to other kinds of music. And like I said I kind of like what I just heard on your player and *(with a hint of anger and a bit of humor)* what you put on my player. But sometimes I just want to hear lyrics that I can understand. Is there anything wrong with that?

Sam: No, of course not, Charlie. And I've got just the song for you.

Song 4: The Trout, p. 342

Charlie: Now that's something I understand. Something I can sink my teeth into.

(Heidi, Karen, and Sam groan at the pun.)

Heidi: Charlie, I'm impressed that you opened your mind.

Karen: And not just your mouth.

Charlie: *(objecting)* Hey!

Heidi: Karen, baby steps.

Karen: Charlie, there's nothing wrong with the kind of music you listen to all the time, it's just that you don't need to limit yourself.

Charlie: That I can handle.

Heidi: You know some of my favorite songs are story songs.

Karen: Me too. There's hardly anything that can move you as much as a great story put to great music.

Heidi: Yeah, music helps write things on your heart.

Karen: Yeah, and on your brain.

Sam: Yeah, like who could have ever learned their ABCs without *(sings a few notes of the "ABC" song.)*

Heidi: Once you're open your heart to all kinds of music, you open yourself to a whole new world.

Heidi: One of my favorite story songs is about Noah and the flood. I sing it in my head every time it starts to reign.

Karen: Do you have it on your MP3 player?

Heidi: I think so. Yeah, here it is. *(She punches play.)*

<p><i>Song 5: Didn't It Rain, p. 345</i></p>
