

ABOUT THE ADVANCE SERIES

PURPOSE

The purpose of the ADVANCE series is to provide a *practical* and *affordable* resource for familiarizing choral singers with the basic elements of music reading, to increase their musical vocabulary and their understanding of music notation. It is not intended to be a comprehensive treatise on musical theory or sight reading.

GOALS

The choral singer is often guilty of musical illiteracy - not being able to read music. We first identified what might be the four most common barriers:

1. Classroom materials available are **too costly**.
2. Fear that there will **not be enough time** to teach the basic principles of notation as well as prepare the music for a demanding performance schedule.
3. **Singers do not recognize the need** for learning to read music.
4. **Singers are at different levels** and the more advanced are generally impatient when confronted with information they already know.

Then we conceived a program that would *neutralize all four arguments!*

1. The ADVANCE series is packaged so that it **costs even less than a regular music title** purchase. One low price includes both the director and singer materials, plus a duplication license so copies can be made as needed to meet the needs of your choral program year after year.
2. The lessons are designed to require **no more than five minutes** of instructional time; and they are organized in an understandable, step by step approach with the singer in mind. Furthermore, the lessons provide *just the basics* and admittedly avoid the exhaustive details required for a comprehensive course in theory and sight-reading.
3. A side bar on each page utilizes anecdotes, analogies, activities, quotes, and humor that are designed to **convince singers of the necessity of learning to read** basic music notation.
4. The side bar on each page also contain phrases and quips ("*A Word to the Wise*" and "*Notes for the Know-it-all*") that **encourage self-esteem and community support**. Those who are more knowledgeable are encouraged to participate in the teaching process.

OPTIONS

ADVANCE wants to fit the needs of your situation - and doesn't want you to pay for things you don't need! The **church** chorister has fewer rehearsals per year and does not need a three-year course expense. Each volume is therefore sold separately and covers a specific area of music reading. The **school** chorister, however, is often better stimulated with quizzes and exams - these are available separately. We are still building the ADVANCE series, but a partial listing of products is noted below.