

Congratulations Members of the 2008 Eastern Senior District Chorus:

I am Peter Thomsen and I am very excited to have been given the opportunity to **share** making music with you this January. I have worked with both the Northeast and Southeast Senior District ensembles in the past and am excited to get to work with you. I've learned that great music making happens when people join hearts and minds in a single purpose. Just think, 200 people from more than 50 schools, coming together to **share** in the wonderful feeling of singing together.

I have chosen a program that I think will be both challenging and exciting to work on. I am preparing sound files that will be available for you to download from the www.thomsenmusic.com website. These files have very specific instructions that will help you to prepare each of the pieces. Each piece has been sequenced and a sound file to help you learn your part will be available there to download. You may also go on Youtube and find performances by typing in the following:

Title

Type exactly this into browser

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|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Cantate Domino | C. Monteverdi-Cantate Domino |
| 2. Set Me As A Seal | Set Me As A Seal |
| 3. The Battle Of Jericho | The Battle Of Jericho with Moses Hogan |
| 4. Kyrie, Schubert | Kyrie |
| 5. El Vito | El Vito Senior All State Rhode Island 2008 |

These performances are not necessarily exactly the way we will perform the pieces. If you find other performances online, please make sure that they are the same edition and the same key. I would also suggest excellent performances of these pieces to purchase for \$.99 each on iTunes. 1. ***Cantate Domino***, performed by Currende, 2. ***Set Me As A Seal***, performed by Concordia Choir, 3. ***Kyrie in Eb Major***, performed by the Atlanta Symphony Chorus, 4. ***Joshua***, performed by The Atlanta Singers.

Vocal music is one of the highest forms of communication that people can **share**. The best performances are from memory, so that should be our goal. Please arrive with your notes learned and we'll have fun doing the memory work together.

Here are some short notes about the pieces: Please be sure to visit the website for more complete instructions.

Cantate Domino: This Renaissance song adapted from Psalm 98 sings of celebration. It must be fast and energetic for our opener. Since we are in 6 parts, Sopranos 1&2 and Bass 1&2 be sure to learn the part you are assigned. The Latin will be on the sound file.

Set Me As A Seal: Dr. Clausen has set this text from the Song of Solomon 8:9 as part of his larger work "A New Creation". This beautiful a cappella piece must be sung with one mind and one voice. Again, at times we are in 8 parts so be sure to learn the 1st or 2nd part that you are assigned.

The Battle of Jericho: The Youtube segment features Dr. Hogan discussing his arrangement as a battle between two forces, the men and the women. Again, be sure to learn your assigned part. I will give specific instructions on the sound file. There will be a solo or small group at m27 Soprano 1. The Soprano Bb at the end will be assigned to only a few people.

Kyrie Eleison: This amazing movement from the Eb Mass begs for "eleison" or mercy. The shifting between major and minor represents the emotional shift between joy and fear.

El Vito: This Spanish folk melody is set with two pianists. The vito is a dance from Andalusia. The music and the lyrics used for this dance are also called "vito." Alto 1 and Tenor 2 parts are particularly important.

Some things to consider for our time to work together:

1. Get enough rest the night before so you'll be awake and enjoy the music!
2. Bring two sharpened pencils.
3. Bring water. Staying hydrated is the secret to not getting a sore throat.
4. Don't use menthol or eucalyptus cough drops. They will cause you to dry out.

