

ABSTRACT

DISSERTATION: By Women, For Women: Choral Works for Women's Voices
Composed and Texted by Women, with an Annotated Repertoire
List

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This study is a practical tool for all conductors of women's voices, in the form of an annotated and indexed bibliography of repertoire. This resource will specifically present literature by women composers, with texts by women authors, written intentionally for women's choral ensembles.

I invite the reader to become an informed consumer of music by and for women. We owe it to our women performers to find works that meet the collective musical, social, intellectual, spiritual, and emotional needs of the ensemble members. Making music is a personal and emotional experience, thus, our performers deserve to sing music that represents, in part, what *they* believe in, and embodies who *they* are.

This document contains annotated entries for more than 150 musical compositions of choral music for women's voices. Each annotation is intended to inform and educate readers as to the specific characteristics of a given piece. Annotation entries include: title of work, composer name and dates, author name and dates, date of the composition,

voicing, accompaniment, duration, subject matter, and publisher's information, as well as detailed commentary related to the textual and musical aspects of the piece. All compositions are also given ratings for level of difficulty in each of six categories: Range and Tessitura, Vocal line and Melody, Harmony, Rhythm and Meter, Text setting and Language, and Expression.

By the very nature of this topic, a fully comprehensive list of all available choral repertoire written by women for women will never truly exist. It will always be a work in progress. However, it is my hope that the information contained within this study will assist conductors of women's choral ensembles in the continuing search for material that best suits the voices and interests of their singers. Women's ensemble conductors *must* be familiar with the literature in the 'by women, for women' category, so that each individual may make an informed choice regarding repertoire for his or her own ensemble. The literal and figurative voices of women deserve to be heard. As conductors of women's choral ensembles, it is our responsibility to let those voices sing.