



Welcome to  
**Choreography for the  
Classical Choir** 🎵

# Welcome to Choreography for the Classical Choir!

- Our goal is for you to learn some ideas and skills to enhance your performances with a sparkle of choreography and movement.
- Our #1 goal with all choir choreography is that it enhances the music. The singing is always the most important!



# Strategy for Choir Choreography

- 1. How to Choose Repertoire
- 2. How to Design the Choreography
- 3. How to Teach the Choreography

# How to Choose Repertoire

- Choose a song that would stand alone without choreography. Make sure it is worthy music.
- Is there an element of fun in the song or expression that would be enhanced with choreography?
- Adding choreography takes extra concentration, so songs with choreography are most successful if they're on the easier side of your groups' potential.
- Is there an instrumental interlude, or could you add one especially with choreography in mind? Doing movements at a time where there is little or no singing makes it much more accessible.

# How to Design Choreography

- Our main goal is that any movements enhance the music. The movements help bring out the music more. Choreography should never take away or distract. It should always add to the music, enhance in musical expression, add a fun element, and all in all “make sense” and fit in with the music.
- Think of your most uncoordinated student and decide what they can successfully do. We want everyone to be successful.
- Look for places in the music where it is important to be still for musical expression or for musical accuracy and mark those in your music for “no movement”. Standing still can be just as impactful as the movement.

## How to Design Choreography (continued)

- Think of, look for examples online, or hire a choreographer to find “moves” that are appropriate and fitting for the song.
- With the “Moves” in mind - stand up, start singing the song and try different things out. If you like singing and moving that way, that’s a good start to know if it will work for your singers!
- Choose moves that can be precise.
- Decide on a clear start and end for every movement.

# How to Teach Choreography

- Teach the song in depth first so the choristers already know the music well
- Teach the individual movements first as separate movements without any music.
- Hold each move to get the precision. You can specify things like – palms up, fingers together, shoulder height. Be very specific to create the most unified movement.
- After teaching all the “moves”, have the accompanist play the song while the choristers listen and play “follow the leader” to copy your motions.
- We’ve found the fastest way to teach is by following the teacher. If the conductor knows the motions really well, they can follow you, once they know the individual moves.

# Specific Moves and Poses

(Pictures of our choir doing choreography)



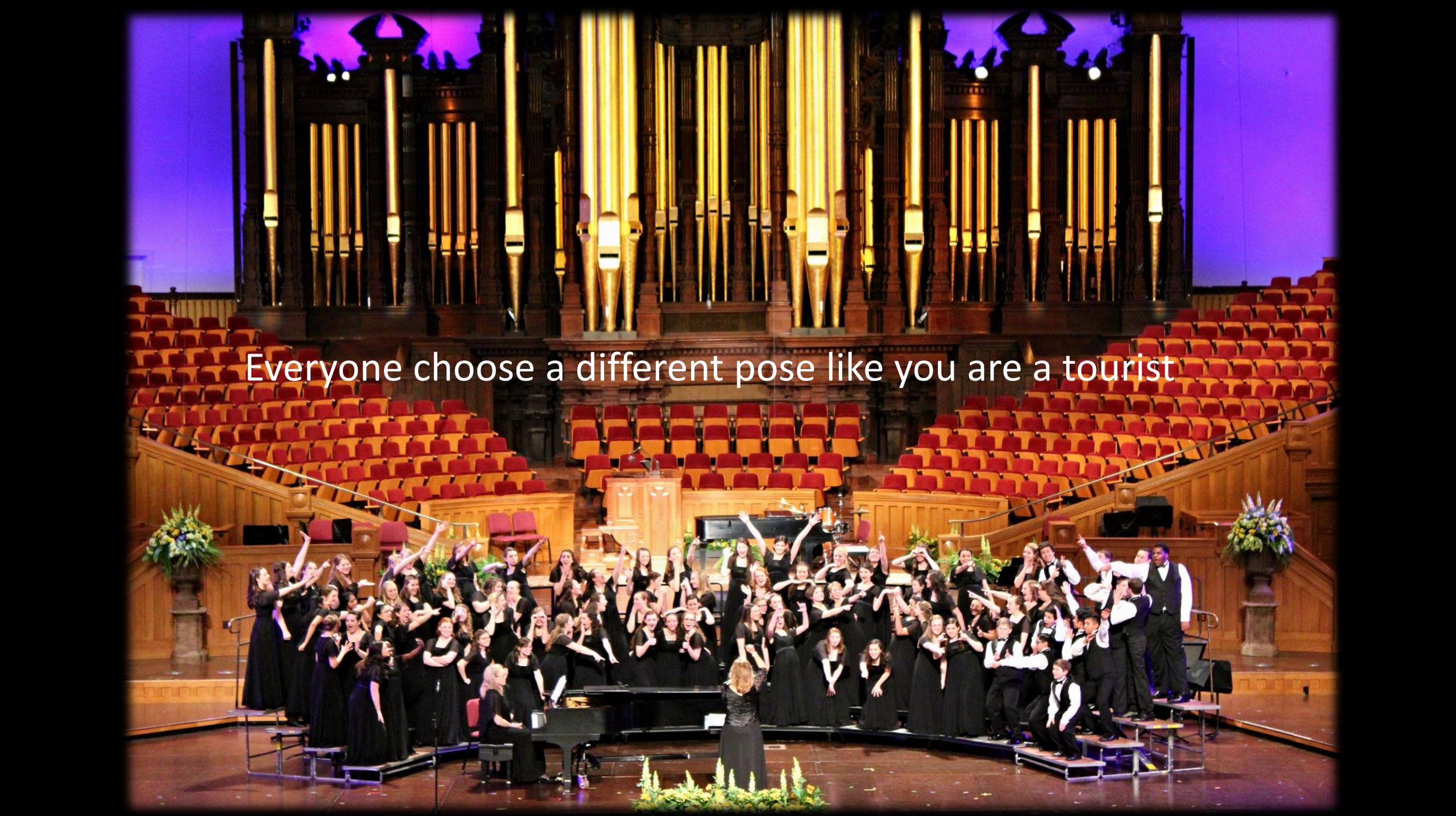
Ending "Row" Pose with Hats



Turned to side, arm out



Arms around each other,  
person on end with hand on hip



Everyone choose a different pose like you are a tourist

A large choir is performing in a grand cathedral. The choir members are arranged in several rows on a stage, with women in black dresses and men in black suits. A conductor stands at the front center, and a pianist is seated at a grand piano to the left. The background features a massive, ornate organ with numerous pipes, illuminated by warm golden light. The cathedral's interior is filled with rows of red seats, and the walls are dark wood. The overall atmosphere is formal and majestic.

Salute

Praying hands



Strong arms





Hands on hips and leaning



Hands around face



Arms crossed



Unified movement



Strong fist



Arms extended, shoulder height,  
palms up, fingers together



Pointing to the sun (using a fun prop)

# Straight section lines

- Creating clean lines between sections can easily enhance the look of the motions.
- We find it easier and more successful to do different choreography by sections rather than doing motions by rows. Rows may change but sections (Soprano and Alto) usually stay the same.



Straight section line in the center



Straight section line in the center

Leaning out (straight center line)





Straight section lines in 3 Parts – SI, SII, Alto

# Other Staging Ideas

- Small groups in front of risers
- Different Formations





















