

**Let's Read Music** was written to help you be a better singer and choir member, and to help you master some of the concepts of music reading. Let's get started....

### The Choir Rehearsal...Be There

1. Try not to let "other plans" keep you away.
2. To be on time, arrive early.
3. Come to sing, not to visit with friends. Visit after the rehearsal ends.
4. Follow the director's instructions to the best of your ability.
5. Show respect for your director, even though you may know more about music than he or she does.

### Get Excited

Use proper vocal technique throughout the rehearsal. Inspired singing means singing with an "excited" state of mind.

1. As you sing, be alert, attentive, enthusiastic, and expressive.
2. Reflect the director's enthusiasm in your facial expressions.
3. Give the message of the music as though it were your personal testimony.

### No Slouching

1. Maintain good posture to support an "excited" state of mind.
2. How you stand or sit affects your sound, so "stand tall" when singing.
3. Try sitting away from the back of the chair during rehearsal so that you can maintain the "stand tall" posture even while seated.

### Bad Breathing

Breathing in the wrong place can distract from a performance and from the message of the song. Don't be guilty of "bad breathing."

1. Starting doesn't begin with the first note, it begins with the first breath. Take that first breath together with your choir director. (By the way, stopping together is just as important as starting together.)
2. Breathe so that the thought or phrase of the music makes sense.
3. Do not breathe between different syllables of the same word.
4. Do not breathe before the last pitch of the song.
5. For special effects, ignore rules 2 through 5.

### Blend

Don't try to "out sing" your neighbor. This is a choir not a solo. Besides, we already know how good you are! A choir is one of the times that you do not want to stand out in a crowd. Remember, the beauty of the choir is the blend.

### Diction

"Saying your words clearer" will not make the audience better able to understand your performance. The secret to "understandable" singing is the entire choir placing consonants and vowels at the same place. Sing the vowels, connecting the final consonant of the previous word to the beginning consonant of the next word. For example:

**I-ti-zuh-guh-dthi-ngto-gi-vtha-nksuh-nto-thuh-Lo-rd.**

