General Notes

This last rehearsal was super tough, in terms of wading through some pretty difficult parts of our repertoire. You are handling all of it super well! Thank you for your work! Even if you don't use the practice tracks to learn your parts, I do encourage you to give them a listen this week, as I really tried to implement the articulation that we will be doing, and it will help us, collectively, get a feel for some of the more challenging tempo changes that you may not expect, simply by being very musically literate. Thank you!

From here on out, we do not have the time in our rehearsals to continue reviewing where all of the places are that you change staves. I like being thorough! But we simply don't have the time. Please use the scores on our members page with the highlighted info, and ask your section leaders! They are amazing resources, and are there to help! There is no shame in asking for clarification! :)

You will notice that a lot of the same music is on the docket for our rehearsal this upcoming week. I will keep plugging away at those, hopefully just as fun as last rehearsal, and then the week after, we'll switch up some of the rep. I just really feel like we're on a roll and don't want to lose the momentum. Working with you all is a dream. Thank you for your continued efforts towards higher-level music making! I appreciate you!

I'll Be Home for Christmas (men)

- Men, I cannot wait to work with you this week. Remember, the opening through m.13 is a solo.
- There are some crossed voicing, I'm sure was addressed, but be careful, as it can be difficult to read at a glance.

All I Want for Christmas is You (women)

- Please cross out the entire first page. :) We are going to be adding a solo (if you've heard the song, you know what I'm talking about), and you will all come in as written at page 3.
- Alto 1 and soprano 2, please refer to the divisi sheet for when you change staves. It only happens a few times, but if you don't know where they are, it's easy to get lost.
- This should be an easier read, so please prepare to sing through the whole song with Paul in sectionals on Tuesday!
- Get ready, because this song will be MEMORIZED!

For unto us a child is born

- Please continue working on those melismas! We will be addressing this next rehearsal, but for articulation, I will need some of you to add soft "d"s on every note of "born." You may find it easier to sing! You have done this before with me, but if it doesn't make sense, that's ok! I will talk about it on Tuesday.
- In the phrase "and the government shall be upon his shoulder," the word "shoulder," specifically the first syllable, often has 2 eighth notes preceding the long note. We are adding staccato markings to both of those eighth notes. Sopranos and altos, we did this in our sectional, so tenors and basses, I will review with you to make sure you know where those are.
- Altos, please carry through in m. 37 from the words "peace," to "unto." Tenors, do the same in m. 53
- At the start of letters D and E, make sure to hold "wonderful," and "counselor" all the way to beat 3. It is written that way, but many choirs trail off before a strong cut off! Let's not be "most choirs…" ;)
- I'd really love to sing through the rest of the song this week. We have learned the main musical themes, so I know we can do it if you're putting in the individual work on the melismas. Mm 74-76 is my sonoric favorite of the movement, but mm. 54-57 is such a cool harmonic passage as we modulate! Can't wait to get into it with you! LABEL YOUR MEASURES! Please… ;)

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

- GREAT work on the beginning of this! We have learned from the top until m. 63. The music goes by quickly, which makes it hard to learn, but very fun to sing eventually! Please listen to your tracks! This is not one of our more technical pieces, so if you know your notes putting it together is easy. PLEASE do your part so we do not have to teach every single measure in rehearsal. I'm not trying to rush this process, but time is of the essence!
- Tenor and Bass, when you have a *counter*melody, remember to be more sensitive, dynamic-wise (e.g. m. 36, 49.).
- Please watch the note on m. 58 on "hapPIest." It is not a C natural that you assume!
- As we begin working on the section at m. 65, those descending lines in the soprano and alto are so fast, it can be tricky to be as precise as we need them to be. Add "doo"s as needed, and practice SLOWLY.

O Magnum Mysterium

- Please just keep plugging away at this. Listen to your track, and PLEASE know when you change staves. Again, we won't have time in rehearsal to review every alteration to the score. Thank you for doing your prep work in advance!

Hanukah Fantasy

- REALLY great work on this one! Altos are the MVPs, as your notes are melodic, but the context is weird… Keep being great! Tenors have such odd chromaticisms, so keep being specific in your practice!
- We have learned all of "Ma'oz Tsur," and "Hanukah, O Hanukah." Note that the ending speeds up a ton. Be prepared! I'd love to learn "I Have a Little Dreidel" this week!

12 Days of Christmas

- I truly mean it when I say that learning this makes me SO EXCITED to perform it with you. You are singing it with such enthusiasm, even as we're learning notes, and it's invigorating, even after a long rehearsal in a longer day. THANK YOU!
- We have learned from m. 33 to the end, with the exception of mm.46-49 (we looked at it VERY briefly). We're going to nail it this week, and solidify the SA parts just before those measures. Do your homework!
- Mm. 24-28 get a little hard to read in the bass/baritone part. I will clarify in rehearsal, and maybe we'll sing through that too. ;)

Next week's music (*in no particular order*):

- For Unto Us a Child is Born
- All I Want for Christmas (women)
- I'll Be Home for Christmas (men)
- Hanukah Fantasy
- It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year
- 12 Days of Christmas
- O Magnum Mysterium