

A Coffee with Alessio



Lent Part IV- "Holy Week and Easter preparation."

One of the important activities for musicians and choir directors during Lent, is preparing music for Holy Week and Easter. Some musicians feel the need to sing all new pieces of music for Holy Week and Easter. I used to think that too. However, we need to strike a balance between repeating the old or familiar and introducing the new or unknown. The music for Holy Week and Easter can be like our coffee dates. Sometimes it is worthwhile trying out a new café, and other times it is not. However, on that note I always try out a café before I take someone else there. That way, I can assess the whole picture and make a mental note of how the café measures up to what I am expecting. Similarly, before you try out a new piece with your choir or congregation, listen to it yourself and get a couple of your choir members or parishioners to listen to the piece of music and get their feedback on it. "Two heads are better than one."

This Sunday will be the third Sunday of Lent, so I hope you have started your rehearsals for Holy Week and Easter. If you are introducing something new for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday or Good Friday you might try it out at one of your Sunday Lenten liturgies. The best rehearsal is a performance. If you have been using a Mass setting for Lent, keep it going for Holy Week. The people need to feel comfortable with a Mass setting. It would be a shame if your Holy Week liturgies fell flat because no one joined in singing. So on that note, I am going to try a new coffee place on my own, and see what transpires. Enjoy your coffee!

Friday February 26, 2016