

REFLECTIONS (Dr. Peter Jarjisian) Wednesday, April 2, 2025

SECTIONAL REHEARSALS on SATURDAY, APRIL 5 (10:00 – 12:00 noon)

Grace United Methodist Church, 300 E. Gartner Rd., Naperville.

Enter through the door marked Worship Center.

Signs will direct you to rehearsal locations.

Again -- we made some great sounds and lovely phrases last Monday! Little-by-little, you're there! Invest time regularly. Look especially at your most challenging sections. Listen often, if only having it on in the background. Let's all work to be ready for what's next, so you can look up to communicate -- the way many of you do already!

Mvt. 6 -- Speak the text as you page through the movement. At the start, our marcato character should sound like pulsing timpani beats. At m. 40, although our rhythm is twice as slow (half-notes instead of quarters), be certain the marcato quality is part of our hushed singing. Double the nervous energy in the next phrase. Turn your dynamic dial down to zero and come up to ppp!

At letter C, pulse quarter-notes as you speak your part. *There's a REST on beat 2 of m. 133.

Note: Most of us are mispronouncing the German word "den." It should sound like "deen."

Der Tod ist verschlungen in den Sieg -- should sound like -- Deer Toot is fehr-schlungen in deen Zeek.)

The CHARACTER of our singing here should more like KARATE strikes than BOXING jabs. Let's make a sound that's efficient, compact, direct -- no sense of flailing as we release tone via the solar plexus.

Try it! (Say "Hey, Hey, Hey." Feel as though you're RELEASING tone, rather than grunting.

FREEDOM!

BIG PICTURE CONCEPTS to reinforce:

- Greet each new phrase as if you're shaking hands (meeting someone new) or stepping onto an escalator.
- ALWAYS have a sub-pulse, a beat division in mind. It electricity, an undercurrent, LIFE!
- Sing in such a way that vowel sounds fall ON the beat; voiced consonants (L, M, N, W, (and "Pr" in the word "Preis") should be delivered BEFORE the beat. Consonants communicate drama, emotion; vowels carry the tonal color.

That's enough for now. Please invest all the time you're able to give.

Saturday, April 5 at 10:00. Jon and I hope to see many of you there!

Monday, April 7 at 7:30 -- Mvts. 3, 5, 6 and 2. Welcome our soloists: Jill and Andrew Rye

Viva la musica!

Peter