

HELLO GOOD PEOPLE:

Just back from a walk and decided I had write. I was thrilled with SO much of what you gave last night. The many facets were improved: mouth-shape; syllabic inflection; less pressing when singing in your upper range; better attention to dynamics; and brighter [e] vowels. Even about 25% were showing the meaning of the words on their faces, in their body language, and in their tone. A toast to you, and special thanks to our guest singers for their preparation and leadership!!!

LET'S FIX THESE THINGS BEFORE WE MEET THE ORCHESTRA TOMORROW:

Sluggish singing. (You wouldn't like what Jon and I are hearing). This was especially noticeable in Mvts. 3 & 6 last night, but I rarely stopped. Look up more and feel the pulse! It can unify us!

TRY THIS GREAT EXERCISE: (It feels weird at first, but it really works!)

As you speak, remove the consonants in bold, so you begin with the vowel sound which needs to happen on the beat. Tap your finger and say the vowel simultaneously. Then, go back and place the consonants before your vowel sound. Your finger and vowel should still sound ON the beat.

Mvt. 1: Selig, werden, Freude, weinen, Samen, getröstet, getrösten

Mvt. 2: wie, Fleisch, Menschen, So, wartet, Schmerz, wird, weg, müssen, wieder,

Mvt. 3: lehre, muss, Siehe, mein, Leben, wie, nichts, nun, wess, soll, Qual (pronounced Kval)

Mvt. 4: Wie, lieblich, Wohnungen, Meine, Seele, lebendigen, wohl, wohnen

Mvt. 5: will, trösten, wie, seinen, Mutter, tröstet,

Mvt. 6: bleibende, Statt, wir, werden, verwandelt, verschlungen, würdig, Preis, Kraft.

Mvt. 7: Selig, sind, sterben, nun, Ja, nach, spricht, Werke, Selig.

We're so close to getting this right! The conductor can't do more than beat clearly and encourage you from the podium. Only you can make the difference!

DYNAMIC COLOR:

Dale Warland founded one of America's most famous professional choirs, the Dale Warland Singers, based in Minneapolis. At an ACDA conference in San Antonio, he said, "Once you've discovered the incredible realm of pianissimo singing, you find it's a land you want to return to again and again."

You gave me chills a couple times last night when your piano & pianissimo singing served the mood and meaning in an exceptional manner. My pleas are not about volume; they're about clothing the words in COLORS that serve the meaning. Be on the lookout for opportunities to use your entire box of VOCAL COLORS.

ONE MORE TOOL TO HELP YOU, IF YOU CHOOSE:

At a memorial service recently, we were asked, "If you were to choose one word to describe Bob, what would it be?" Borrowing the idea, "If you were to choose one word to describe each new section you're about to sing in the Brahms-Requiem? Without having the meaning of every word in mind, you will have chosen a theme or concept to represent the next portion of the story. Write it in your music!

Thank you for all you've invested this Winter and Spring!

See you in the Gallery at 6:10 tomorrow!

REMEMBER TO VOCALIZE BEFORE YOU ARRIVE!