

Canton Symphony Chorus

Sight-Reading Music (Prepared)

The purpose of asking singers to sight read at a choral audition is to give the auditionee the opportunity to demonstrate his/her ability to learn music quickly. Certainly, picking up a piece of music and singing it at sight is a clear demonstration of a singer's musical literacy; however, there are other singers who, although they may not be as adept at singing a piece at sight, they are highly motivated and will more than make up for their reading deficiency by working and learning their music on their own outside of rehearsals. Such a singer can make a significant contribution to our chorus.

An auditionee can choose one of two ways in which he/she can display his/her ability to learn music: (1) sight read an unfamiliar piece of music at the audition or (2) prepare an unfamiliar piece of music shortly before the audition, thus demonstrating to the conductor the auditionee's ability to learn a piece of music in a short period of time. The following instructions are for the second method.

1. Sing your voice part of the Bach chorale *Ach Gott und Herr*.
2. It makes no difference whether you sing on a neutral syllable or in German.
3. You will be asked to sing the piece twice: once with the piano playing all the parts; next you will be asked to sing a few bars of the chorale (again, your voice part) unaccompanied.

C. M. Shearer

Ach Gott und Herr, wie gross und schwer

J.S.Bach

The image displays a musical score for the chorale 'Ach Gott und Herr, wie gross und schwer' by J.S. Bach. The score is written for four voices: Soprano and Alto (Soprano Alto), and Tenor and Bass (Tenor Bass). The music is in C major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves. The first system shows the beginning of the piece, and the second system shows a continuation of the music. The lyrics are: 'Ach Gott und Herr, wie gross und schwer sind mek' be-gang-ne Saa-den! Da ist Nie-mand, der hel-fen kann, in die-ser Welt zu fin-den.'