

## Journal Assignment #2

### Music Analysis: TIMBRE

One of the basic materials of all music is “**Timbre**”. This is the word referring to **quality of the sound**. For example, it is possible to tell the difference between a trumpet and a flute playing the same pitch, because of the unique quality of each instrument’s sound - it’s timbre.

Just as a composer chooses a text to write music for, he or she might also choose a particular timbre to help reinforce the composer’s intended effect on the audience. **As choral performers, we should attempt to create the appropriate timbre for the text and the music, as well as for the style of the music.**

**Some (but not all) words used to describe timbre** (the quality of the sound):

harsh	round	focused
vibrant	edgy	spread
hollow	tight	dark
resonant	throaty	bright
clear	relaxed	covered
	shrill	

**Three main things effecting the timbre of our voices:**

1. How vowels are formed in mouths and throats.
2. The way consonants are formed by lips, teeth and tongue.
3. The range or tessitura in which we sing.

Different styles or types of music demand different or unique timbres.

#### **ASSIGNMENT:**

**In paragraph form**, write an analysis of the **TIMBRE** of a song, using complete sentences, and correct spelling. **Use lots of examples to explain your writing, and try to cover the information in the following questions:**

- Does the text infer a certain timbre? Describe the timbre suggested by the text.
- Does the text call for a change in timbres anywhere in the song? Where? How should the timbres change? Use examples with measure numbers to direct attention to them.
- Is there unison or doubled singing (when more than one section sings the same notes)? Where? How does this seem to change the timbre?
- Is there voice crossing (tenors singing higher notes than altos, etc.)? Where? How do you think voice crossing effects the timbre?

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- See if you can write this for **language arts extra credit as well**.
- **Remember, this isn’t a quiz...you aren’t answering questions in this assignment!** You are telling the Reader about each of the topics listed above!
- **Emailed assignments are encouraged!!** Emailed assignments will receive feedback sooner than hard-copy submissions. Make sure to save a copy, in case I don’t receive it. Also, **when you receive your graded reply, SAVE IT OR PRINT IT, SO YOU HAVE PROOF...**sometimes grades get lost!

**Send to: [mhuiseng@sps.lane.edu](mailto:mhuiseng@sps.lane.edu)**