

Tiered Solo Project

Assignment Info

You will select one of the following Tiers and complete the assignment in the coming weeks, so read carefully and pick which one best fits your current situation, understanding that we are here to help you on every step of the way and that deadlines and grading will reflect the current situation we are in (we're gonna work with you, and we want you to succeed):

Tier One:

You will prepare a vocal solo for Solo Contest. We are still planning to have some sort of Solo Contest like we have in the past, and you are going to prepare a solo that is on your current ability level. Advanced students will get a Class I or Class II solo, beginning students will get a Class III. Tier One is you basically saying, "I'm all in. I'm bored and desperately want some real music right now. I have the time, and I want to learn a song that reflects my current ability level."

Tier Two:

You will prepare a vocal solo that is considered one level below where you are currently performing. It may be used for Solo Festival, but it's not required or expected. If you would normally get a Class I solo based on your level, you will do a Class II. Normally a Class II gets a Class III. Normally Class III gets something a little easier like a folk song or easier melody. Tier Two is basically you saying, "Yeah, I want to keep singing and keep developing my skills and am fine with learning a solo, and I even want to challenge myself a little bit, but I need it to be a little easier because I'm just not sure what the next three weeks are going to look like. If I have time, I might take it to contest, but I might not."

Tier Three:

You will prepare a vocal solo that is simple and short. It will not be used for contest. Tier Three is basically you saying, "I want to keep singing and keep developing my skills, but I am totally swamped/extremely anxious about all of this right now and need to do a short, easy solo. Something that I can learn pretty quickly with a minimum amount of time on it. Something that keeps me singing but doesn't require time that I don't have."

Tier Four:

This is designed for the student who is truly buried right now and is just taking one day at a time because they are in a tough situation right now. This is not designed for the lazy student who has time but just doesn't feel like working. This really is for the student of any ability level who just can't give the time for a solo assignment right now or students who have technology/access barriers. For this, you will not learn any solo. There will be a weekly listening assignment like the last assignment where we give you a beautiful piece of music to listen to, and you will answer

questions about the performance and interpretation of the piece. It will be very similar to last week's assignment, but it will be a different piece of music each week.

For Tiers One, Two, and Three, your weekly assignments will involve you showing us some progress on your work, either by scanning your music to show your solfege, counting, or vowel choices, or audio/video recording your progress such as singing on solfege or chanting rhythms or singing on text. We will define what each week's goals are, you'll have a week to make that progress and record it, and assignments will be turned in on Sunday nights.

Also please note that if you currently take voice lessons and are preparing a solo in your lessons, that solo will NOT count for this assignment. You will learn a second song for this assignment. If you select Tier One and you are in voice lessons and working on a solo already, you will be able to choose which one of the solos you want to take to contest - the one you're working on with your voice teacher or the one we assign. Doesn't matter to us.

Also, please note that we will not ask for any justification for whatever tier you choose. We will trust that you will pick the tier that best represents what kind of commitment you are able to give right now, and we will honor that. Your tier selection will also not be used in any way to determine your choir placement for next year. They are unrelated. So, if you really only have the time and energy to pick Tier Two, then don't pick Tier One to try to impress us or increase your chances to make a varsity choir next year. (Doing a phenomenal job on a Tier Two assignment is better than doing a poor job on a Tier One assignment.) We are in an unprecedented situation, and we are giving you an opportunity to pick a tier of involvement that reflects your current status with no repercussions. Choose a tier for one reason and one reason only: because it fits you right now in your current situation. We will not judge your selection in any way.