

Trapshooting: Prepare the Music

All chords must be spelled correctly so that Pythagorean tuning can be determined. If you cannot determine this, find someone who can check it for you. (Be sure to mark enharmonics.)

Be sure all the **notes and words are aligned**. Visual confusion will result in vocal confusion (synch errors, tuning problems, inconsistent tempo, etc.).

Be sure there is **sufficient space between staves** to make each line of the arrangement distinct from the next. Cut and paste the music to increase this space if necessary for visual clarity.

Mark all breath spots in an uptune with the exact value (duration and rhythm) of the rest (breath) to be taken.

Mark breath spots in a ballad to better communicate the basics of the desired phrasing.

Be sure all **chords with the tenor below the lead are marked with an “x”** above each chord.

Number the measures for easy reference when teaching.

Avoid difficult passages/measures at a page turn. Cut and paste to put fewer staves on one page if necessary. Position difficult things like key changes, tempo changes, etc., ANYWHERE but at the page turn.

Avoid 2-sided pages. The awkwardness of flipping pages can cause the singers to ingrain tempo and synch problems during the learning process.

Avoid repeats. Cut and paste to give your singers a straight-through read of the arrangement. The awkwardness of flipping pages can cause the singers to ingrain tempo and synch problems during the learning process.

When passages of a song are repeated, be sure to compare them in detail. The notes and words should either be TOTALLY identical or different enough to remember the differences.