

# Finding Canadian Repertoire for Young, Developing Choirs: A Starting Place

*An initiative of Choral Canada's Advocacy Committee. We welcome your ideas and feedback!*

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We all constantly seek quality repertoire that inspires artistry and healthy singing. Conductors will say that there are simply no shortcuts to finding great repertoire. Attending reading sessions and repertoire workshops, attending concerts and writing notes in concert programs for future reference, participating in festivals, attending conferences, swapping choral folders with colleagues, listening to recordings – these are just some of the ways to find repertoire. With online materials such as publisher and composer websites that often have recordings and sample scores, choosing repertoire can be a fun but never-ending research project!

If you are looking for outstanding Canadian repertoire for young singers (ie. treble voices that are just beginning to sing in parts), we hope that this list may serve as a helpful point of departure.

New works are being composed all the time, and many emerging composers are writing for young voices. Additionally, many independent music publishers exist in Canada. Therefore, this list is a work in progress and will be added to on an ongoing basis.

## Canadian Music Publishers

For more young treble voice repertoire ideas, catalogues, and resources, check out these Canadian music publishers. Titles can usually be ordered through your local music store, where staff will know of titles from other independent music publishers.

### Canadian Music Centre

[www.musiccentre.ca/sheet-music](http://www.musiccentre.ca/sheet-music)

A vast catalogue of published Canadian music available for rent, loan, or purchase. Use the “advanced search” to narrow down to unison or 2-part songs. Some really interesting titles and recordings here!

### Classica Music Publishers

[classica.ca](http://classica.ca)

A relatively new publisher, based in Burnaby, BC; catalogue includes some SSA titles, although it is primarily more advanced repertoire.

### Cypress Choral Music

[www.cypresschoral.com](http://www.cypresschoral.com)

Website includes full pdf scores to view and recordings to preview most titles in the catalogue. A large focus on Canadian composers and Canadian content.

### **Kelman Hall Publishing**

*musicpluscorp.com*

Some unison and SA repertoire; many sacred titles in the catalogue; emphasis on Canadian composers.

### **Leslie Music Supply**

*www.lesliemusicsupply.com*

With a large publication catalogue, Leslie also reprints Gordon V. Thompson editions, and is a distributor of Berandol Music.

### **Oceanna Music Publishing**

*www.oceannamusic.com*

Specializing in the music of contemporary women composers; many French titles, too.

### **Red Castle Publishing**

*www.redcastlepublishing.com*

For elementary level songs, check the various song collection books they offer; many CDs also available.

### **Rhythmic Trident Publishing**

*www.rhythmictrident.com*

Vancouver-based, catalogue focuses on new music by Canadian composers, arrangers, and lyricists.

### **Themes & Variations**

*shop.musicplaytext.ihoststores.com*

Many song collections for developing choirs including Canadian Folk, Canadian History through song, French songs, game songs, songs of Peace; Craig Cassils is one of the main arrangers for T&V.

## **Check out these online resources for additional suggestions for treble voice repertoire:**

### **The John Adaskin Project: [adaskin.musiccentre.ca](http://adaskin.musiccentre.ca)**

*cmea.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Choral-Works-by-Canadian-Composers.pdf* (BC Composers)

*cmea.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Choral\_Works\_Canadian\_Composers\_Ontario1.pdf* (Ontario Composers)

*Musique canadienne: oeuvres choisies l'intention des professeurs (1982)* Available by mail order through the website.

The Canadian Music Centre and the Canadian Music Educators' Association have an extensive project on Canadian music for schools, as a continuation of the John Adaskin Project begun by the CMC in the early 1960's. The John Adaskin Project has produced guide lists, including evaluations of Canadian music repertoire, giving detailed analysis of the works in terms of musical characteristics, technical challenges, and pedagogical value. The repertoire is also rated in terms of difficulty.

**Choral Canada/Canada choral**

*Choralcanada.org*

The Recommended Repertoire Series is in six volumes with annotations for each work. Suggestions are listed by voicing with practical information (composer, arranger, publisher, language, timing) plus comments from conductors. Short biographies of the composers and arrangers and contact information for the publishers are included.

**Elektra Women's Choir**

*www.elektra.ca*

For treble voice search menu for “repertoire resources”; all annotated and catalogued- very helpful!

**ChoralNet**

*choralnet.org*

This is an online forum with a number of archived threads that you can follow, or ask questions of the thousands of experts worldwide who participate. Repertoire suggestions are well organized by voicing, theme, instrumentation, etc.