

WE DON'T LIKE ARITHMETIC

1

Choral Speaking/Teacher/Intermediate to Advanced Voice Choirs

WE DON'T LIKE ARITHMETIC

Written

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Formatted for Choral Speaking

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This choral speaking script, "We Don't Like Arithmetic", includes a variety of speaker experiences. As in most choral speaking, ALL SPEAKERS speak in unison together. But, in an effort to bring needed variety of sound and a composer's touch to the choral expression of this script, you will find that:

1. A SOLO SPEAKER speaks five special lines. (One solo speaker may be used, or the five lines may be given to five different solo speakers.
2. ALL MALE VOICES speak in unison together.
3. ALL FEMALE VOICES speak in unison together.
4. ALL VOICES speak in unison together.

"We Don't Like Arithmetic" is a humorous piece and requires a light-hearted, tongue-in-cheek, interpretation.

To find the proper rhythm, first read-aloud and clap through the piece as you go. Each underlined word or word-part falls directly on a beat. As you read, clap on each underlined word, keeping the rhythm steady. Be careful not to read too fast! This is a rehearsal technique and readers will not clap throughout the entire piece during performance.

PLACING OF SPEAKERS ON RISERS

Special attention to placing of speakers on risers is especially important for a visually interesting performance. Some suggestions:

1. Position MALES on one side of risers, FEMALES on the other. OR place MALES in top half section, FEMALES on bottom half. You might ask MALES to wear all of one color (or special costumes which fit the story), and ask FEMALES to wear another color (or special costumes).
2. SOLO SPEAKER lines are often effective coming as a surprise from all sections of the choir, so these speakers may be scattered

WE DON'T LIKE ARITHMETIC

2

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throughout the choir groupings. However, solo speakers may also be positioned together in the front row or off to one side of the risers.

3. QUARTETS, however, should be positioned together in the front row, if possible. These people must speak as a small group in unison, so should be positioned together where they can work together and the audience can easily see and hear them. Quartets might also be positioned off to the side, depending on the script.

4. CHARACTER SPEAKERS (speaking the lines of characters in a story) may also be positioned together in the front row. They might also be positioned off to the side, placed standing on a low separate platform nearby, or seated on tall stools. Each might wear a small costume piece (or carry a prop) which suggests the character they are

PACING

Many of the Scripts For School choral speaking pieces are light, lively, happy, and upbeat. They generally have a definite rhythm or beat (just like a musical piece) and work best in performance when that beat is acknowledged, rather than ignored. This doesn't mean a director shouldn't slow things down at certain key points and/or play with the rhythm. The more the piece is interpreted, felt, colored, and shaped, the better the performance.

LINE NUMBERING

Important: use of LINE NUMBERS at left on each script page will help you quickly identify specific lines when rehearsing with your group. It's easier to say, "Let's start again from line 25", than spending precious time trying to identify group sections by description. If you are working with a script that does not include line numbers, you might wish to add them before beginning rehearsals.

WE DON'T LIKE ARITHMETIC

3

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1 ALL: WE DON'T LIKE ARITHMETIC

2 BECAUSE IT WON'T ADD UP,

3 FEMALE VOICES: BECAUSE IT WON'T ADD UP,

4 MALE VOICES: BECAUSE IT WON'T ADD UP!

5 ALL: WE DON'T LIKE ARITHMETIC

6 BECAUSE IT WON'T ADD UP!

7 SOLO VOICE: A CALCULATOR'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME!

8 MALE VOICES: ADDITION, DO WE HATE IT?

9 FEMALE VOICES: YOU BETTER BELIEVE WE DO!

10 MALE VOICES: SUBTRACTION, DO WE HATE IT?

11 FEMALE VOICES: WE HATE IT THROUGH AND THROUGH!

12 MALE VOICES: DIVISION, DO WE HATE IT?

WE DON'T LIKE ARITHMETIC

4

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13 FEMALE VOICES: WE THINK IT IS THE WORST!

14 ALL: AND IF WE HAVE TO MULTIPLY,
15 WE KNOW OUR BRAINS WILL BURST!

16 FRACTIONS ARE ATROCIOUS!
17 THEY'RE JUST A CRYING SHAME!
18 AND WHO INVENTED DECIMALS?

19 SOLO VOICE: HE PROB'LY CHANGED HIS NAME!

20 ALL: AND THEN THERE IS GEOMETRY,
21 OR MUCH WORSE - ALGEBRA!
22 AND NOW THEY'VE BROUGHT IN METRIC

23 FEMALE VOICES: WELL, THERE OUGHT-A BE A LAW!

24 SOLO VOICE: NOW TRIGONOMETRY'S A THING
25 THAT REALLY BAFFLES ME!

26 MALE VOICES: THE SQUARE ROOTS AND THE CUBE ROOTS