Both vocal parts will use all of their range between c*1 and e². With so many sections that contrast a repeated or static figure against the melody, this is an ideal piece to use when children have had a little experience in part singing and need more reinforcement.

The piano part is technically not difficult, but make sure your accompanist has nimble fingers!

> Jed David Watson Christ Community Church 225 E. Exchange St. Spring Lake, MI 49456

The Hero and the Dragon Steven Burnett

Two-part, keyboard, opt. flute and percussion

Carl Fischer, CM8597, \$1.40

The Hero and the Dragon is a delightful setting of a story about a dragon that people feared and a "brave young knight" who volunteered to "battle the beast." A mixolydian melody and a repetitious refrain combine to tell the story. The melodic content begins in unison with the second part moving stepwise into harmony after the first two phrases. The harmony is well written and would be easy to learn for young singers. Most phrases begin with both parts singing in unison. The refrain, "with a clang and a

clamor, a roar and a shout, through the whole of the night well struggle about." repeats after each new part of the story. The piece ends with the hero high on a hill standing in "the way a true hero should."

The melodic content is rhythmic and singable. The setting in the key of F places the elementary singer in the most beautiful part of their voice. The range and tessitura is well suited to the elementary child. The melody occasionally reaches elementary child. The melody occasionally reaches and there is one f, but those are included as the piece reaches a climax. A creative teacher could make a wonderful presentation of this piece in concert. Any text that tells a story appeals to the young singer. The piece has motion and energy to involve the singer in singing it again and again.

Carolee R. Curtright University of Nebraska School of Music Lincoln, NE 68588-0100



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Two-part mixed/SAB

The Moon Was But A Chin of Gold Tom Shelton Three-part mixed, piano, flute Hinshaw, HMC-1779, \$1.50

The Bee
Tom Shelton
Three-part mixed, piano
Hinshaw, HMC-1778, \$1.25

Tom Shelton, a middle school music specialist and an excellent accompanist, has created two wonderful pieces for middle school singers. The Moon Was But A Chin of Gold and The Bee are settings of Emily Dickinson texts. These pieces were originally written for the 2000 North Carolina Middle School All-State Chorus. The voicing and the melodic writing exhibit the composer's familiarity with middle school singers and his skill in writing for voices and keyboard.

In *The Moon Was But A Chin of Gold,* the range for soprano is d¹ to e². When e² is sung it is well prepared on an open vowel. The range for alto is c¹ to d². Altos have the opportunity to introduce the melody in the beginning of the piece.

The range for the third part (for boys) is g to eb1. There is occasional divisi writing for all voices, but often when that happens the voices are terraced, entering one after the other to build a chord. The text is charming and would be intriguing for middle school singers. The melody outlines three descending second-inversion chords that move by whole steps while the third part sings the root of the chord. The piece changes in meter from 4 to 6 at measure fifteen, and again at m. 34, sometimes giving the feeling of 3 rather than §. When the original melodic content is repeated the piece reverts to ½ meter. The addition of the flute adds interest to the piece as well as reinforcing voice parts

The Bee includes much unison singing for all parts. Sopranos and altos introduce the minor rhythmic melody that is soon repeated by the male voices. The B section is in three-part harmony with some occasional divisi. The voice parts are all quite accessible for middle school singers. Sopranos do ascend to g2 on three occasions, but these are well prepared and part of the melodic line. The male voice range is from g to e. Here also the e is part of the melodic line and should be well within the range of the young singer. Each time the A melody appears following the initial statement, it is treated canonically and is followed by the B section in three-part harmony.

Both pieces enhance the Dickinson texts and are excellent introductions to fine literature. These would be appropriate for contest, festivals or to add interest and variety to any choral concert.

Carolee R. Curtright University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Music Lincoln, NE 68588-0100

Mon coeur se recommande vous Orlando di Lasso Russell Robinson, arr. Three-part mixed Alfred, 20097, \$1.50 www.alfredpub.com

This renaissance "chestnut," a time honored favorite in its original four-voice setting, receives a sensitive and effective reworking for three-voice mixed choir by arranger Russell Robinson. di Lasso's endearing treatment of this earnest love poem has been a frequent feature of madrigal groups and SATB choirs. Now younger choirs can experience the gentle beauty and sympathetic pairing of text and music in this simplified version. Presented in the key of E^b major, the vocal ranges are suitable for younger singers, with the third part (tenor/bass) range from f to d^{b1}.

The original French text is presented

first, along with a singable (if not literal) English translation. Directors will find the included pronunciation guide helpful for the French; however, those accustomed to using the International Phonetic Alphabet will want to note carefully where the arranger's transcription method differs from IPA. This arrangement also includes a number of helpful editorial suggestions, including tempo indications, dynamics, and breath marks. A piano re-

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