



## notes from sherri

I care deeply about this chorus and the power of what we stand for—which is why last rehearsal felt frustrating. And I imagine I wasn't alone in that. Still, I want to begin with gratitude: for those who show up consistently, with openness and commitment. There are parts of every rehearsal that are truly beautiful, where the sound you create together is gorgeous and full of meaning.

I also know each and every one of us is carrying something serious... medically, emotionally, or practically. Life is heavy right now, in so many ways. And yet you keep showing up. That matters. It speaks to how important this space—and this music—is. But as we reach the midpoint of our season, we need to shift. This is where we move from learning notes to making music—and that only happens if we know our notes, if the work continues outside rehearsal. The tools are there: marking your score before and during rehearsals so you don't miss the things that I ask of you and the things that make music come alive (dynamics, accents, pauses, cut-offs, words), along with the playlists, the part mp3 files, the member page with rehearsal info, and these newsletters. A lot of work goes into all of that – for you. They only make a difference if they're used. And it does show when they are. I can hear who is prepared.

That kind of effort is more than musical—it's respect. Respect for the group, and for the many hands that make this chorus run. Each voice matters here. Every note you learn, every entrance you claim, strengthens the whole. No one can sing your part for you—and when you do it with intention, you're honoring not only the music, but every singer in our group.

Listening is also an act of respect. When we truly hear one another—across sections—we create space for balance, blend, and trust. Courtesy in rehearsal isn't just kindness; it's what allows the music to come alive as something shared. I feel the need to repeat my request that talking be done between pieces or, as I offered in the first rehearsal, tell me you need a "huddle" to discuss something with your section. I cannot hear one section's pitches if there are even two others conversing. And every time I pause to wait for the talking to stop, we rob the whole group of precious rehearsal time.

Listening is also the best way to learn—understanding how your part fits within the whole. When we each commit fully and listen deeply, we don't just rehearse—we build something unified, intentional, and strong together.

So let's come together, grow together. Let's remember that music is breath given shape — a gathering of sound that carries what words cannot hold. It is the space where feeling becomes shared, where silence is transformed into connection, and where we remember we are not alone.

### Saturday - March 28

#### Protest Playlist:

Dark Times  
Solo El Pueblo  
Hold On  
Be the Light  
Will the Circle Be Unbroken  
Bread & Roses  
If enough people know it, I'd like to add Hope Lingers On

Plus other call/response and end with teaching people Solo El Pueblo

### Sunday - March 29

Small ensemble meets at 5

Check the rehearsal plan to see what's on the agenda. And please start thinking of things we can add for staging at our concert.