

## **Simply Human**

We are human: a living, breathing organism, not an organ, not a player piano, not a calliope. We have problems: family, money, work, illness, fatigue. Some of us are still trying to figure out our life trajectory: college, profession, partner, religion. In the midst of all this, we join together to make beautiful music, to momentarily leave behind the larger problems of life. Let us treasure the moments we have been given and make the most of them.

## **Clichés**

Time is short—only four more rehearsals before our first concert.  
Achilles heel—those same three measures are killing me.  
Where am I—in the Bach formation, in Sections, at Good Shepherd PC.  
Just kidding—I said I would practice outside of rehearsal and would come on time.  
Not enough rehearsal time—like when I was in my college choir.  
Simpler music is the answer—then I could come unprepared and no one would notice.

## **Tests**

As conductor, my role is to thoroughly prepare and then teach as quickly and effectively as possible. But like in the building of every good relationship, I'm still trying to find out how resilient, faithful, talented and committed my partner is. There is no way to make that determination without testing the partner; in rehearsal of challenging repertoire, these tests come naturally. Kindness and patience are virtues, but so is justifiable impatience, even anger....at each other, at me as your conductor, at you as my ensemble.

## **Standard**

The only standard for judging the level of our performance is how much we have learned; how much we have improved. Stated another way, there is no mythical level of perfection which is good enough for St. George, for SLC, for Vegas; good enough for the BYU Singers, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the St. George Chamber Singers. To be justifiably proud of our accomplishment at the end of this concert year, we must be able to say that we did our best: not just at the concerts but in our preparation every week and at every rehearsal.