

## Instrumental Music - Dave Howland

### Getting Started

- Existing support and interest
- Recruiting musicians - Be creative *and* patient! 😊
  - Announce - choir rehearsals, church services, senior high Sunday school
  - Advertise - worship bulletin, newsletter, word of mouth, e-mail distribution, music bulletin board
  - Network - current instrumentalists
- Youth instrumentalists
- Critical mass
- Decisions to make - Be flexible! 😊
  - Rehearsal time and frequency
  - Audition or not
  - Type of ensemble
  - Level of ensemble
  - First time and frequency to play in church
- Literature
  - Hymns
  - Mix-and-match
  - Publishers and music distributors
  - Organ pieces: preludes and fugues - Bach!
  - Re-arranging and de-ranging
- Needs and interest of members
  - Musical
  - Spiritual and personal

## Instrumental Music - Dave Howland (cont.)

### Christmas String Ensemble

- Music in the narthex/hallway before the Christmas concert
- 10 hymns (including "Joy to the World")
- For 5 of the hymns (2 verses each):
  - 1<sup>st</sup> verse: standard hymnal harmony - violin I (soprano/melody), violin II (alto), viola (tenor), cello (bass)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> verse: violin I plays melody *8va*; all other parts same as 1st verse
- For 4 of the hymns (2 verses each):
  - 1<sup>st</sup> verse: standard hymnal harmony - violin I (soprano/melody), violin II (alto), viola (tenor), cello (bass)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> verse: cello and viola play melody *8vb*; violin I plays tenor part *8va*; violin II stays on alto part, as written
  - "Joy to the World": 3 verses; use each type of variation
- Transcribing involved:
  - Viola - all parts written in alto clef
  - Violin I – 2<sup>nd</sup> verse tenor parts written *8va* in treble clef
  - Cello – 2<sup>nd</sup> verse melody parts written *8vb* in bass clef
- Variations of this idea:
  - Use woodwind or brass instruments - more arranging involved
  - Select fewer hymns, or pick just one to do as a prelude or anthem
  - Use communion hymns and play during the serving of communion
  - Use Lenten hymns and play for an Ash Wednesday or Lenten service
  - Use solo instrumentalists with piano/organ accompaniment

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