

Cyber Singers – recording preparation

Prayer of Saint Francis – William Beckstrand

Diction: Opening – Lord” = Lawd with “d’ on the rest;

As always - “r” is silent before a consonant; “r” is flipped before a vowel; “t”, “d”, “k”, and “p” need to be clearly articulated with extra support; be sure to clearly enunciate each word that follows “let us sow” and be sure that you are not singing about “lettuce”

Meter and tempo: be aware of meter changes and how they effect syllable accents; watch conductor carefully in the last four measures; accent the second syllable in “eternal” in those same measures

Dynamics: *mp* – *mf* range; *mp* throughout first two pages; observe that *mf* occurs twice measures 21 – 30; and 33 – 46; be sure to observe the *mp* between those sections

Breathing: first two pages breathe at rests; last two pages breathe at commas and/or stagger breathing as needed

Articulation: observe rests strictly; especially on page 3 and 4; hold whole notes a full four beats while soloist sings; (also dotted half notes). “Lift” at the commas in the last four measures on repetitions of “eternal”

Phrasing: *legato* throughout; notice that meter changes occur to allow the natural accents of the text; the *legato is so important*, you cannot overdo it

Page 4: musically emphasize each word that follows “let us sow”; two syllable words have emphasis on first syllable and taper on the second

Essence: many of you are quite familiar with the text; this is a prayer – and the composer has created a setting to serve the words and their meaning

