2020 All-State SSAA Choir
Virtual Choir notes from conductor, Dr. Parker

The Water is Wide

- The opening "doos" should be sung wavelike to mimic the water, but be smooth and connected.
- Measure 5, "The water is wide" melody should be sung by everyone who knows it.
- Each phrase should have an ebb and flow, like the waves from the beginning. The crescendo of each phrase, should be the middle of the held note, and then decrescendo after -- for example, "The water is wide" (Wide is the top of the phrase) and then decrescendo "I cannot cross o'er." should be shaped the same way throughout.
- Measures 21-22 Second sopranos and altos bring out their parts because their moving notes are important. Emphasize the changes from note to note as well as entrances, e.g., Altos on measure 24 "And she sails..."
- Measure 27, "as deep can be" -- pay attention to that triplet to keep in time (the closer it is in time, the more it will be in the swung jazz style of the piece); same for altos on measure 30, "But not so deep."
- Measure 37, make the "Oo" like the water from the beginning -- very smooth and connected. When the rhythm is a dotted figure, work to sing precisely to mimic a disruption in the water.
- Measure 37, the melody line (Small group/solo) should be sweeping and the mezzo forte dynamic -- it should be strong, but not as strong as the section beginning at measure 53.
- Measure 53 -- make the word "love" a bit stronger than the other words, Oh LOVE is gentle, and LOVE is kind.
- Measure 61, Alto have that chance to make their phrase wavelike like the opening melody.
- Measure 66, emphasize "fades"
- Measure 73 -- altos emphasize my LOVE and I.
- Measure 74 -- very smooth and simple Sopranos and Alto I, "The water is wide"  
- Remember: Sing the piece soulfully. You can do it :)

This little light of mine

- Soprano I, Beginning mezzo forte please, Focus on the word "mine" and "shine" as arrivals -- when you sing, "let it shine" "let it shine" and "let it shine" emphasize the word "shine" in each of the repetitions.
- Measure 8, Sop II -- imagine you are trading solos with a friend -- take over on your entrance Sop II and crescendo on the word "Well"
• Measure 16, Alto I, when you enter, lean into your "Oh"
• Everyone should lean into their notes when they are flatted, (e.g., measure 18 for sopranos)
• Measure 24 -- everyone forte
• Measure 24, Soprano I -- crescendo on "Oh"
• Measure 31, Soprano I decrescendo
• Measure 33, mezzo forte to mezzo piano suddenly in Soprano I; Soprano II and Alto I sing mezzo forte
• Measure 41 emphasize the word "shine" whenever you have it, especially "shine, shine, shine, shine, shine"
• Measure 48-56, everyone should make it brassy and forte as indicated -- let your voice be heard!
• Measure 56- I"ve got the light of freedom" should be the highlight of the piece for Sop I and II
• Measure 64 for Alto I -- like the beginning, crescendo and take over on your "Oh---hide it under a bushel not"
• Measure 66 for Alto II -- take over on "Well hide it under a bushel not..."
• Measure 72-80 Sing forte and focus on the word shine.
• Measure 80 -- bring the original sound back to the end of the piece, let the listener know you're returning to the first ideas from the beginning of the piece.
• Measure 86 -- broaden your sound and really sing.
• Remember: Nothing, not even this pandemic can keep you down. You've got this.