



Valentine's Day Round - Rehearsal Notes

By Adam Paltrowitz

This sweet, lilting round works well for elementary, middle school, high school, and community choirs. It can successfully be used in a performance but it can also be of tremendous value if used solely in rehearsal.

In addition to the traditional purposes of a round (great for sight-singing, learning how to sing independent parts, etc.), this Valentine's Day Round was written with additional learning goals.

The Valentine's Day Round is designed to focus on consonants that are frequently mispronounced or omitted as well as ones that frequently sound the same, even though this should not be occurring.

Here are three specific consonant confusions that is the focus of this round:

V (voiced) and F (unvoiced)

Tr and Ch

P and B

'V' (voiced) and 'F' (unvoiced)

Notice how they occur one after the other. The goal is to teach singers to differentiate the voiced 'V' from the unvoiced 'F'. I recommend practicing them back and forth without the words.



'Tr' and 'Ch'

Similar to my [Trick or Treat Round](#), this round places a 'tr' word and 'ch' word near each other. Americans frequently use a 'ch' sound in place of the proper 'tr' sound. In this song, the word, "trust", should be pronounced as "tuh-rust" rather than "chrust". This is followed by "cherish". So "tuh-rust" and "cher-ish" should have a different beginning sound.

'P' and 'B'

In order to differentiate the 'p' from the 'b', a singer must be supporting their sound. Without support, those two consonants will sound both similar and lazy. The words "please" and "be" require the engagement of the solar plexus. I suggest speaking those two words over and over again until singers feel the difference between the two sounds.

One more thing

There are always hidden and ignored consonants. I've highlighted them below to ensure they are all addressed.

Here are the lyrics with the highlighted consonants to focus on:

Will you **p**lease **b**e my **V**alentine?

A **f**riendly **V**alentine, be mine.

I **v**alue, **t**rust, and **c**herish you.

A **V**alentine's a **f**riend so **t**rue.