Performance Notes

Oseh Shalom is a traditional Hebrew song. The text is a prayer for peace called Shmoneh Esreil, one of the most recited prayers in Jewish services. The literal translation means:

He who makes peace in high places, he will make peace for us and for all Israel and let us say, Amen.

V' al kol yisrael is pronounced Vee-al kohl yis-ra-el

I have always loved this melody and wanted to write an enthusiastic arrangement for young voices. The song begins with a sensitive, freely sung rubato optional solo. When all voices enter, the mood should remain pensive until the end of m. 21. The indication “Kick it” at the pick-up notes to m. 22 denotes the music should have a spirited, “syncopated” feel until the end of the piece. I envision singers moving right and left (step-together, step-together) with hand claps on beats 2 and 4 (the interlude at m. 22 and m. 48 and some of the verses) if the choir wishes. Chords have been added to this arrangement in the event that a bass guitar and rhythm section are available.

I hope you enjoy singing this traditional Hebrew song with a contemporary feel.

—Russell Robinson