**Riders in the Sky**

**aka**

**Ghost Riders in the Sky (GRITS)**

Several or our members sang a version of “Ghost Riders in the Sky” during Cadet Glee Club days and remember it as a crowd pleaser with great harmony, if not a little challenging. It will give us a chance to emote, have some fun and perhaps add some sound effects. This particular TTBB version was sung by the Norman Luboff Choir in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, and will be remembered by the older audiences we normally entertain. Depending on how Nancy directs, GRITS can also be an upbeat, high-energy song which supports our theme “Land of the Free” and will be a good addition to our repertoire. Enjoy!

**Nancy’s Technical Introduction**

“Riders in the Sky” GRITS because it is ghostly!! Here is some info that might help you to better understand the piece. There will be more details coming soon.

**BREATHING:** You will need good breath control for the long phrases that also have a crescendo. Keep practicing the Breathing Assignment (See Nancy’s Self-Rehearsal Exercises); deep breathing will keep you well hopefully. Breathe in as if you were sucking through a straw.

**DICTION** will be very important because the words tell the story. A Cowboy-like accent will be fun:-) Need more clarity on consonants, and always correctly placed-forward, tall vowels. Work to memorize the lyrics.

**SONG STRUCTURE:** 4 verses total. The 2 verses are the same notes, with the repeat sign at the top of Page 5. Mostly the same notes on verse 3, but a few changes, which we will take care of at rehearsal. Verse 2 or 3 might be up for a solo...we will see. Verses have a basic melodic line, but the harmony parts differ in spots, so listen carefully as you practice with the accompaniment.

**KEY CHANGES:** Composers often use the idea of changing keys to bring fresh sound to a piece. Norman Luboff is a famous and talented choral director who arranged this piece. The song begins in F minor, and then goes up to F# minor on the 3rd verse, and then for the finish to G minor. It builds the song with energy.

**Nancy’s Video Instructions for GRITS**