Lillenas® Drama Presents

Make a Joyful Noise

From A View From the Pew

By Martha Bolton

A Comedy Sketch

Characters:
  HOWARD
  MIKE
  Five or six choir members

Setting:
  A mock choir loft or something the choir members may stand on to be at different levels

Props:
  Choir books or hymnals for each character

Costumes:
  Choir robes, if available

(Sketch opens with HOWARD, MIKE, and the rest of the CHOIR MEMBERS standing in their places. They are just finishing a song.)

EVERYONE (singing): Aahhhhnh... mennnnnnnn.

(At the conclusion of “Amen” they turn the page in their choir books to prepare for the next number.)

HOWARD (turning to MIKE who is standing next to him): Do you have to sing so loud?

MIKE: If I want to be heard over you, yes, I do!

HOWARD: Well, I’m supposed to be loud. After all, I am the number one soloist in the church!

MIKE: That may be, but unless your name is “Unison,” we were all supposed to be singing together.

HOWARD: All right! But the least you could do is sing the right notes!

MIKE: I was singing the right notes!

HOWARD: Well, they may have been the right notes, but they went to a different song.

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MIKE: Are you saying I can’t sing?

HOWARD: I’m saying when David wrote, “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord,” he was directly referring to you!

MIKE: Well, the choir director must think my voice is just as good as yours.

HOWARD: Whatever makes you think that?

MIKE: He put us next to each other, didn’t he?

HOWARD: Yes, but that’s only so I can drown you out!

MIKE: I’ll have you know whenever I sing a solo, there isn’t a dry eye in the audience.

HOWARD: When you sing a solo, there aren’t any eyes in the audience! Everyone gets up and leaves!

MIKE: And I suppose you sing like a bird?

HOWARD: I’ve been known to receive standing ovations.

MIKE: Only when you sing during the benediction!

HOWARD: Well, listen. I have the next solo, so why don’t you do the audience a big favor?

MIKE: What’s that? Dismiss them?

HOWARD (laughs sarcastically): You know when we come to that part where the choir is supposed to join in?

MIKE: You mean the chorus?

HOWARD: Yes, the chorus. You know where I sing the first part of each line, and they sing the rest of it?

MIKE: Yes?

HOWARD: Well, why don’t you do us all a favor and just lip-synch it?

MIKE: You mean, you don’t want me to sing?

HOWARD: Hey, don’t take it personal. Actually, I’d rather no one sang with me.

MIKE: But, don’t you realize it takes more than one person to make a choir?

HOWARD: Whoever said that obviously had never heard me sing!

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MIKE: Even if you’ve got a beautiful voice, being in the choir takes teamwork!

HOWARD: Well, I’m up to bat now, so just keep it quiet in the bleachers!

MIKE: All right, if that’s the way you want it.

HOWARD: That’s the way I want it. You just lip-synch, OK? The rest of the choir can do whatever they want to. I really don’t need them either.

MIKE: You mean you don’t need any of us?

HOWARD: Actually, no. But, they’re supposed to sing the last part of each line in the chorus.

MIKE: But, you’d rather sing all by yourself?

HOWARD: Of course, I’d rather sing all by myself. But, it’s too late now. Excuse me—my spotlight is waiting.

(HOWARD struts over to the side of the stage, smiles at the audience, turns and smiles at the choir, then looks back at the audience. As soon as his head is turned back to the audience, the rest of the choir members look at MIKE, who in turn looks at them. They all nod in agreement. HOWARD then nods to the accompanist who begins introduction to “Working Together” (see below). HOWARD sings verse one as a solo, then joins with the chorus, which is only the first two words on each line. After singing his part, he turns to the CHOIR, but they don’t sing their part. Instead, they just smile while the accompanist plays their part. Throughout the chorus HOWARD keeps trying to give the CHOIR the eye to start singing their part, but they just smile. The CHOIR is obviously teaching HOWARD a lesson about teamwork. At the end of the two verses, and two very embarrassing choruses, HOWARD sings the final line: “Working together—forevermore.” He then turns and makes his way back to the choir loft.)

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MIKE (smiling): I do believe that was the best solo you’ve ever sung!

HOWARD (gritting his teeth so the audience doesn’t see that he’s mad): Why did you do that?

MIKE: Yes, sir, not a dry eye in the audience! They were all laughing too hard!

HOWARD: Why did you do that?

MIKE: Well, you said you’d rather sing it alone! You said you didn’t need any of us!

HOWARD (swallowing his pride): All right! I admit it! I need you guys!

MIKE: Do you mean it?

HOWARD: Yes, I mean it.
MIKE: Really mean it?

HOWARD: Yes, I really mean it!

MIKE: Even me?

HOWARD: Yes, even you.

MIKE: Say it!

HOWARD: I need even you!

MIKE (smiles): Good! Now we can sing!

EVERYONE (singing in unison): Working together—forevermore!