

## PROGRAM NOTE:

This arrangement of *Camptown Races* was written for the 2009 Conference of the North Central American Choral Directors Association, a contribution to their songbook entitled *A Community That Sings!* which aims to breathe new life into the waning tradition of singing folksongs together. The deceptively simple requirements turned out to be unexpectedly challenging: “not complicated, interesting, musical, singable as a unison piece, optional harmony, optional obbligato instrument, relatively short...” I took them to mean an arrangement that could be sung anywhere, without an accompanying keyboard instrument, hence the “Rules of the Game:”

- singers are divided into Leaders and Group
- Group members can become Leaders as soon as they feel comfortable doing so
- there are optional two- and four-part settings for the later verses and choruses

It is my hope that this arrangement will indeed be useful as an especially interesting audience sing-along.