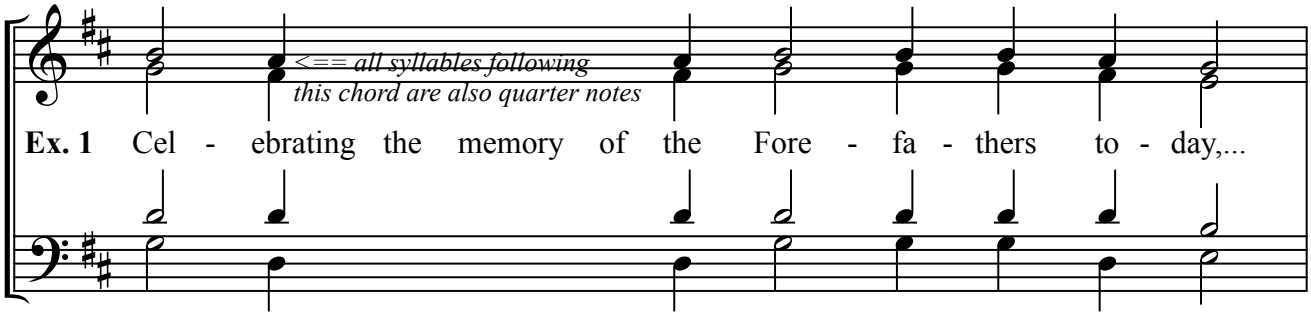
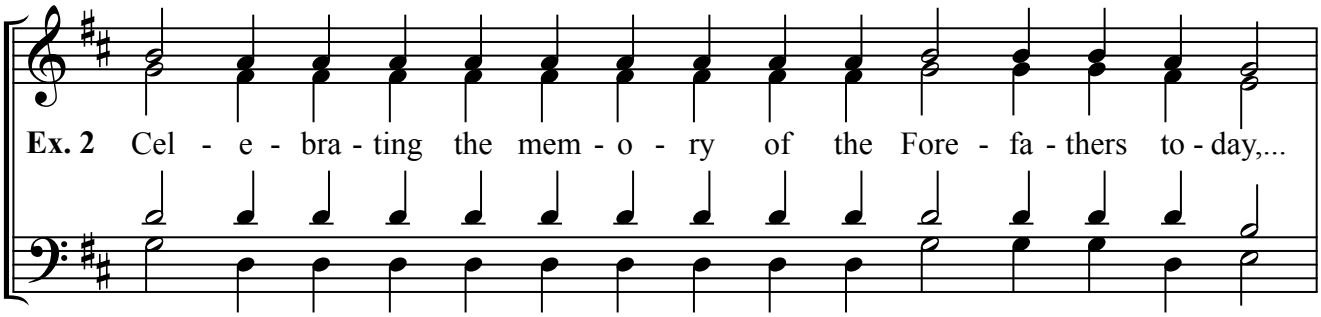
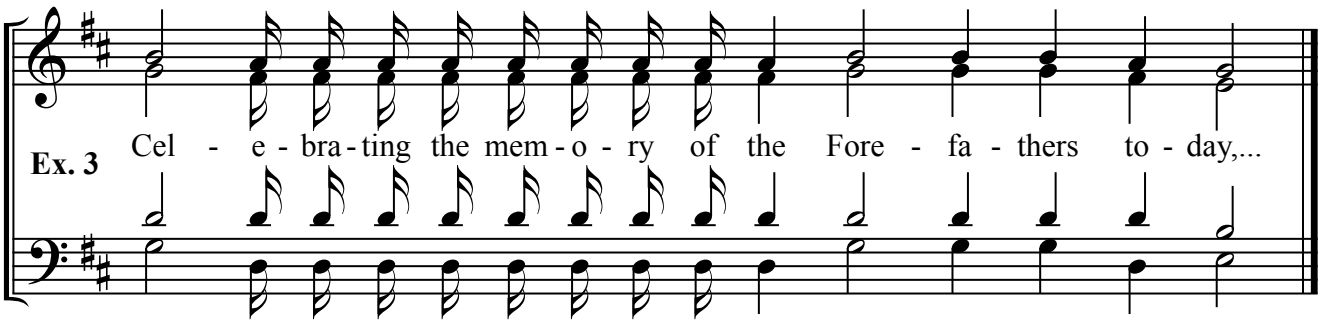
Choir Tips 12/23/05

When chanting the Stichera and Troparia, it is important to keep relatively the same tempo throughout. The recitative portions (chanted on one note) should not be extremely fast relative to the portions with written notes. When the music is notated with blank spaces for the recitative sections, this assumes that the singers will continue at the ***same tempo*** as the last note which was printed until the notes resume again.

For example, the Sticheron for the Forefathers in Tone 8:



Both examples **(1&2)**, should be sung exactly the same, there should be no extreme speeding up where the notes are omitted in the above example. At the same time, the singing on one note of many syllables should ***not*** be done in a ponderous slow manner, neither should every syllable be accented, but should reflect the accents of normal speech. The goal is to make the stichera and troparia beautiful to listen to, yet the words must be understandable to all. So the choir leader must indicate the tempo, and prevent the singers from running away with the chant on the recitative portions. This is especially important when chanting the Creed which has very long recitative phrases. Speaking the text out loud is a good way to feel the appropriate rhythm of the words, which can then be applied to singing the text.



While it is permissible to ***very slightly*** accellerate the chanting on the recitative portions, you should avoid having it sound like the example **(3)** below: (especially for the services of the Forefathers where long lists of saints are mentioned, these must be enunciated carefully.)