South Dakota State University
Dr. Charles Canaan, conductor

A Warm-up using the do-mi-so-(do) intervals of the major scale. We use words such as: O I love to sing, or Al-le-lu-ia, You are late to-day!, Tell us why you are, etc.
The open vowels are good reminders of the yawning feeling necessary for resonance.

This is just a major scale. On the descending portion the various sections hold specific pitches to spell out the major chord. You can use any neutral vowel sounds you like. I like to use it at the beginning of the year to let them hear the four-part male chorus sound; also it helps to adjust the balance between the sections.

This exercise makes use of the intervals do-mi-so-mi-so-mi-do, either in major or minor keys. You begin with the brighter (i) vowel and move toward the darker (a) vowel. It helps to teach the concept of the forward placement to the darker vowels.

In this exercise half the voices move up in thirds on quarter notes, the other half of the voices sing the ascending major scale in half notes. The result is that on every other beat they need to listen carefully for the unison, and on the other note they work on keeping the ascending third interval high and in tune. Each voice part may take turn singing the half and quarter note portions.