

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

ls LET'S SING EASTER

REHEARSAL GUIDE

by Dennis Allen

Lifeway™

“Come, People of the Risen King”

The Gettys have brought so much wonderful music to the church. This song is a powerful declaration, and it is packed with verse after verse of strong truth. Rehearse crisp enunciation of this great text. On the choruses, bring the energy and volume up to match the exciting statement, “Rejoice, rejoice! Let ev’ry tongue rejoice!”

“Worthy Is the Lamb”

This classic Darlene Zschech worship song is a tender expression of thankfulness for God’s sacrifice of His only Son on the cross. Hopefully it is familiar to your congregation and they can sing along. Work to sing the rhythms in meas. 10-12 smoothly and correctly. When you reach the key change in meas. 47, let your voices soar in praise! We will be singing this song in heaven, so we might as well practice singing it now with all our hearts! Learn this chorus so well that you can sing it *a cappella*, without holding the music. It would be a wonderful way to close each rehearsal as you are learning this musical. I think your choir will experience true worship during rehearsals, and it will be even more powerful when you present it to your church.

“How Great Thou Art”

Because this wonderful song is so well known, the arrangement is rather straightforward, so your choir will sing it easily. Be sure to add the emotion these words portray. This is especially so in the verse beginning in meas. 40. The ladies should think about what they are saying and let their voices express the passion needed. The congregation should join in singing on the choruses.

“Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)”

This is one of the best settings of a classic hymn text with a new melody. There are several spots where the volume and energy need to build. One of my favorite sections to let “explode” is the Bridge, beginning in meas. 73. If the choir can’t get excited here, you’ve got work to do! Then everything comes down again for the first part of the next chorus, only to erupt again in meas. 85. This piece could be the highlight of your presentation.

“Grace *with* Grace Greater than Our Sin”

A “soulful” attitude in the soloist’s vocals will make or break this arrangement. The choir functions in more of a background role, but should still match the soulful style and sound. When the “Grace Greater than Our Sin” hymn is introduced toward the end, you can invite the congregation to join in singing this familiar hymn.

“God So Loved”

What an energetic and fun-to-sing song to end this musical! Work on the dotted eighth/sixteenth notation, making sure it is crisp and correct. However, the most important part of any song is the lyric, so clear and articulate pronunciation of this message from John 3:16 is critical. Note that the melody swaps around from the ladies to the men, so make sure it is prominent.