

A Note from the Composer

“A voice crying in the wilderness” has no inhibitions. It is strong and unbridled.

This piece is intended to exhibit that same earthy freedom. It should be sung heartily, from deep within the soul of the believer. The ringing open fifths throughout the piece evoke the feel of *Southern Harmony* hymns, which are meant to be sung with a powerful open tone.

At the beginning, the choir should respond to the soloist as if they are singing across a chasm, throwing the tone forward. To enhance this effect, the soloist and choir can be placed across from one another. In the vocals, the large, sixteenth note leaps will inevitably be sung as a slide from one note to the next. This is intentional. Let the music build gradually until it bursts into a boisterous celebration at m. 46.

The keyboard accompaniment is written to suggest a hammered dulcimer, which may be added if available. In performance, I have found it very effective to have just a few choir members begin to stomp in m. 20, strongly on beats 1 and more softly on beats 2, continuing until m. 68. (Walking sticks may be substituted for stomping.) This percussive effect, combined with the tambourine and triangle parts in the back of this score, serve to propel the motion forward and enhance the primitive quality of the piece.

I Hear the Prophet Callin'

3

SATB and Solo with opt. Percussion*

Based on
Isaiah 35: 1-2, 4-6, and 40: 3

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

1

As if calling across a field

SOLO
mp

I ___ hear the proph - et___

As if calling across a field ♩ = ca. 52

mp

4

call - in', "Pre - pare the way_ of the_ Lord."___ I___

1 indicates CD track number.

*Percussion part is on page 12.

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7

hear the proph - et call - in', "Pre - pare the way_ of the_

10

Lord." I hear the proph - et

mf

13

Choir responds:

SA *mf* call - in', "Pre - pare the way_ of the_ Lord." SOLO I

TB *mf*

16

SA

Choir responds:

hear the proph - et_ call - in', "Pre - pare the way_ of the_

TB

19

f *mf*

Lord." Come and make_ straight the way in the des - ert, a

f *mf*

22

f

high - way_ for_ our_ God. Come and make_ straight the way in the

f

mf *f*

* See Notes from the Composer.

25

des - ert. Pre - pare the way_ of the_ Lord. Pre -

28

3

mf

pare the way_ of the_ Lord. I _

mf

mf

31

hear I - sa - iah call - in', "Fear not, your God_ has_

34

come." I hear I - sa - iah call - in', "Fear

37

not, your God will come." Then will the eyes of the blind be

40

o - pened. The ears of the deaf will hear. And then the