

10/4681L

SAB and Solo with opt. Percussion

I Hear the Prophet Callin'

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

Usage:

Advent/Christmas

Scripture references::

Isaiah 35:1-2, 4-6, 40:1-11, 62:1-12; Mark 1:1-8

Also available:

SATB (10/3751L)

Perf/Acc CD (99/2357L)



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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

SAB and Solo with opt. Percussion*

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

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Pepper Choplin

① As if calling across a field ♩ = ca. 56

Solo
mp

I _____ hear the proph - et _____

As if calling across a field ♩ = ca. 56

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

2

mf

Lord." I__ hear the proph - et__

+ Perc.

mf

Choir responds:

13

SA *mf*

B *mf*

Solo

call - in', "Pre - pare the way__ of the__ Lord." I__

Choir responds: 3 5

16 SA
hear the proph - et__ call - in', "Pre - pare the way__ of the__

B

19 *f* *Begin stomps *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

mf *f*

*See Notes from the Composer.

25

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

28

4

mf

pare the way_ of the_ Lord. I_

31

hear I - sa - iah call - in', "Fear_ not, your God_ will_