David Avshalomov

Praise the Lord!

(Psalm 150)



Mixed Chorus (SATB, divisi) with Organ

(opt. suspended cymbal)

Winner, Mountainside Master Chorale Composition Contest 2016 (2nd Place)

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Commissioned by the choir of Westwood United Methodist Church of Los Angeles to recognize and honor Director of Music Ministries Dr. Gina Shaw on the occasion of her retirement. Dedicated to the Glory of God (*Soli Deo Gloria*).

Duration: 4:45

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

There are two key first steps to mastering this piece vocally. First the choir needs to become comfortable with the two basic ways of "feeling" a lively 5/8 meter: 3+2 ("Praise the Lord" and 2_3 ("Praise Him____"), beaten and felt one-to-the-bar, over a flow of continuous eighth notes (in the organ). The syllable placement in the piece is designed to support these two rhythmic building blocks naturally.

Second, they need to get in their ears a modified Lydian mode with a lowered 7th degree. (On C this is C D E F# G A Bb.) The whole-tone tetrachord and the prominent tritone from 1 to 4 govern much of the melodic material, in various keys—but not all the harmonies.

In series of repeated "Praise the Lord" bars, the word "Lord" should not be clipped (not staccato), the series should make a long phrase. Except for the very first phrase of the piece, the final "d" in Lord should not be popped, just gently touched.

It is preferable that the choir not rehearse this piece with piano; even a portable synth/organ is preferable to get the sound of the accompaniment in their ear.

Divisi: Women sometimes divide, either normally (2-part Altos and/or 2-part Sopranos), *or* in 3 parts (fewer Second Sopranos and fewer First Altos combined on the middle part, for balance with the top and bottom). These differences are clearly marked. Only Basses divide in the men.

Organ registration: If you do not have *Trompette en Chamade*, use as loud a trumpet/brass stop as you have. It must have *éclat*. And the mixture for the organ solo must be thick and penetrating, with vibrato/tremulant or comparable richness.

There is an **optional cut** in the organ solo from 175 to 207 which can be used to shorten the piece by about half a minute.

The **suspended cymbal** part is optional but it is worth including if you can do it. (There are vocal effect cues in the choral parts to cover it.)

MUSIC NOTE BY THE COMPOSER

This setting of Psalm 150, the culminating Psalm in the Old Testament, draws its energy from the root meaning of the word *hallelujah* used regularly in the Psalms. It is the Hebrew word used for requesting a congregation to join in praise. The best translation of *hallelujah* is "Praise Yah, you people", usually worded in English versions as "Praise ye the LORD" or "Praise the LORD" (the refrain repeated in this English-only setting). However, *hallelujah* means more, as the word *hallel* in Hebrew means a joyous praise, to boast of God, or *to act madly or foolishly.* Hence, the purpose of Psalm 150 as I see it, and of my setting, is for an already ecstatic chorus to incite the congregation to mad, wild praising of the Lord. This effect is enhanced by the almost continuous use of quick asymmetrical 5/8 meter The piece also has a prominent organ part with an extended "Bulgarian Jazz" solo in the middle.





















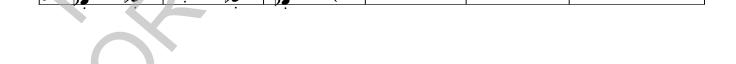


























David Avshalomov Praise the Lord! Score







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Songs of Innocence and of Experience, A Cappella Settings

-								pella Settings	
TITLE Alphabetical	Level *		Div., Soli	also solo Quar tet	Туре	Character	Energy/ speed	Topic	Opt. Special FX, Stage Business
Ah! Sun-Flower	M	2:10		OK	Air	Wistful, poignant	slow, limp, soft	Death, time, release	
The Angel	II		SSA, women only		Melodrama	Mysterious	slow	Age, womanhood	
The Blossom	III	1:00			Playful Madrigal	Fun, light	fast, light, rhythmic	Nature	
The Chimney Sweeper I	I		SSAATTBB middle		Melodrama	Ironic, ecstatic	slow fast slow	Child labor	
The Chimney Sweeper II	II	2:00			Melodrama	Bitter	moderate	Child labor	
The Clod & the Pebble	III	2:00		OK	Madrigal	Ironic. Formal	moderate	Love's illusions	
A Cradle Song	III	3:15		OK	Lullaby	Sweet with a twist		Baby innocence, mother worry	eyes shutting, end
The Divine Image I	III	2:00		OK	Prayer	Reverent	moderate	Tolerance	
A Divine Image II	II	1:30			Aphorism	Bitter, ironic	slow, solid, full	Darkness of the soul	
A Dream (the lost ant)	M	2:00	BB end		Melodrama	Play spooky	moving, rhythmic	Lost ant	
Earth's Answer	III	2:30			Plaint	Dark	slow, strong	Forbidden love	
The Ecchoing Green	II	2:30			Carol, glee	Exuberant		Children's play, sleep	Bell tones
The Fly	III	1:20			Playful Madrigal	Witty	lively, rhythmic	Fly or Man?	eye movement, end
Freedom/Uhuru	I		opt. Bar. solo		Affirmation	Proud, African	J ,	Divine soul of a slave child	Chant BG. Clapping, rhythmic movement
The Garden of Love	II	2:30		OK	Moral Madrigal	bitter, poised	intense	Forbidden love	
Hear the Voice of the Bard	III	2:45			Prophecy	Hortatory	strong	Mystery, end of night	
Holy Thursday I	III	2:00			Hymn	Hopeful	steady	Exploitation of children	
Holy Thursday II	III	3:15			Sermon	Tragic	slow	Poverty	
The Human Abstract	I	3:30			· ·	Bitter, sharp		Selfishness	
Infant Joy	M		light Sopr. Solo		Air/rocking song	Sweet	moderate , rhythmic	Innocence	
Infant Sorrow	III	2:15			Blues moan	Soulful	slow, heavy	Pains of birth	moan, groan
The Lamb	M	2:20		OK	Prayer	Sweetest	gentle, soft	Lamb and Christ	
Laughing Song	I	3:40			Playful Madrigal	Hilarious	lively, rhythmic, full	Laughter and youth	Laughter, Hilarity breakdown near end
The Lilly	III	1:30			Nature Madrigal	Esthetic	slow, soft	Lilly vs. rose	

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The Little Boy	II	3:30			Melodrama	Worried		Boy lost in the	
Lost/Found							rhythmic		
A Little Boy Lost [II]	I	4:00			Sermon	Righteous	moderate	Boy burned at the stake	
A Little Girl	II	3:00		OK	Madrigal/	Light, then	lively,	Forbidden young	
Lost (Ona)					melodrama	heavy	then slow	love	
The Little Girl	II	4:00			Story Madrigal	Narrative,	moderate	Lost girl, symbolic	
Lost/Found						varied		nature	
(Lyca)									
The Little	II	1:45			Glee	High-	lively,	Need for ale in	
Vagabond						spirited	rhythmic	church	
London	III	2:00			Sermon	Gloomy	slow	Degradation in the city	
Motto to the	II	2:15			Conundrum	Ironic	lively,	The turning of	
Songs of I&E							rhythmic	human nature	
Night	III	3:00			Prayer	Sweet		Angels while we sleep	
Nurse's Song I	II	2:45	SSAATT-B end		Vignette	Innocent	moderate	Children on the Green	Echo divisi ending
Nurse's song II	III	1:30			Vignette	Bitter	moderate	Mortality	
On Another's	III	1:30		OK	Hymn	Sweet	moderate	Compassion	
Sorrow									
Piping down	III	2:00	SSAATTBB		Playful	Cheery	lively,	The Poet's	solo whistle intro
the Valleys Wild			end		Madrigal		rhythmic	inspiration	
A Poison Tree	I	3:45		OK	Moral Madrigal	Bitter	slow, intense	Revenge	
My Pretty Rose Tree	II	1:45		*	Madrigal	Ironic	moderate, gentle	Spurned love	
The School Boy	II	3:30		OK	Madrigal	Ironic	lively, rhythmic	Summer school	
The Shepherd	M	1:30			Prayer	Sweet	_	Guarding the flock	solo whistle intro and end
The Sick Rose	II	1:45		*	Madrigal	Bittersweet		Love/death	
Spring	III	1:30		*	Playful Madrigal	Charming	lively, rhythmic	Children in spring	
To Tirzah	III	2:15			Chorale	Bitter		Misogyny	
Tyger Tyger Burning Bright	II	2:10			Paean	Sharp	lively, rhythmic	Fearsome nature	Eye movement end
0 0	т	2.00		OV	Cormon	Hortoton:	,	Fally	-
The Voice of	I	2:00		UK	Sermon	Hortatory	moderate	rolly	
the Ancient									
Bard		1							

LEVEL RANKINGS: I. Professional, Advanced University or Collegiate

(NOTE: **All**, naturally, are suitable for pro and advanced groups.)

II. Upper Division High School (chamber/madrigal, all-city, all-state honor), and Advanced Community or above

III. General High School, Community College, and general Community or above

M. Level III but ALSO suitable for Advanced Middle School (chamber/madrigal, honor): based on suitable ranges, age-appropriate subject matter

Choral Works by DAVID AVSHALOMOV

MIXED CHORUS

Songs of Innocence and of Experience SATB (divisi in a few) (Wm. Blake)

Double cycle, 45 separate settings, averaging 1-4 min. ea. See full list overleaf.

Secular

Principles, secular cantata (Thos. Jefferson) [32'] SATB (divisi) version, solo baritone, concert band, (or piano, can add perc.) (also for TTBB, below)

There's a Wind [4'] SATB (divisi), (brief S1 solo), opt. wind whistling (lyrics by the composer)

Let the Children Play [4'] SAB (or SAA), piano, opt. flute(s), (lyrics by the composer)

Go Ahead and Rejoice [2'] SATB (divisi) (Doris Avshalomov)
Father the Tree [4'] SATB (brief S1 solo) (Doris Avshalomov)
Song For Late Summer [4] SATB (divisi) (Doris Avshalomov)

H.S. 20 in Line [2'] SATB (divisi) (Daris Applications)

U.S. 30 in Idaho [2'] SATB (divisi) (Doris Avshalomov)

Sacred

The Mixed Blessings, [12'] SSAATTBB, (from the Beatitudes—Matthew/Luke) handbells (6-7 players)

Praise the Lord! [4:40] SATB (divisi), organ, opt. cymbal (Psalm 150)

This Sacred Space [4:45] Consecration Anthem with congregational hymn

SATB (divisi) (brief alto solo)/organ/4 brass/timpani (text by the composer)

I Bend the Knee of My Heart [5'] SATB (divisi) (Canticle 14/Manasseh)

O Euchari (Columba Virtutem Illius)—Meditation [5] SATB (divisi) (Hildegarde von Bingen)

Kedushah for the High Holy Days [5'] Cantor (solo tenor *or* soprano), SATB, piano, flute **Chanukah tonight!** [2:45] SATB (opt. divisi), piano, opt. tamb. (lyrics by the composer) Also with string orchestra (or mandoline or balalaika orchestra)

Happy Anniversary [1'] SATB

WOMEN'S VOICES

Happy Anniversary [1'] SSAA

Let the Children Play [4'] SAA, piano, opt. flute(s), (lyrics by the composer)

Where You Go, I Will Go (Ruth and Naomi) [12'] SSAA (brief S2, A2 soli) Do You Believe in Angels? [9'] SSAA, 8 high strings (or organ reduction)

(poem by the composer)

The Angel [3'] SSA from Songs of Innocence and of Experience (Wm. Blake)

Enchanted River [2'], SA, opt. S solo (Meredith Kennedy)

MEN'S VOICES

Principles, secular cantata (Thos. Jefferson) [32] Orig. version TTBB (divisi),

solo baritone, concert band (or piano, can add perc.)

The Star Spangled Banner [1:45] arranged for barbershop quartet or ensemble, TTBB **Happy Anniversary** [1'] TTBB

NOVELTY

The U.S. Air Force Fugue [3'] TTBB (based on "Off we Go, into the Wild Blue Yonder") **The Chocolate Carol**, Holiday version [4:15] (David/Randi Avshalomov)

- o SATB (brief divisi), piano, optional flute
- o SATB a cappella caroling version

Love & Chocolate, Valentine's version [4:15]

- o SATB (brief divisi), piano, optional flute
- o SATB solo quartet, piano

The Garlic Blessing [3'] SATB (brief divisi), piano

Flopsy, the Christmas Pup [4:45] SATB, piano, opt. bass and drums

Performance materials, pricing, and full list of works: Raven Music davshalomov@earthlink.net - www.davshalomov.com - (310) 480-9525