

For use with

The Garden of Sorrow

Words by
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Music by
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(810038)

Rehearsal Notes

If the choir absorbs and engages with the drama of this piece, they will have a good idea how it should be sung. The song alternates between heaviness and hope. It begins with heaviness set in a minor key with some open 4ths and 5ths in vocal lines and accompaniment, all culminating at m. 35 on the word “groan.” A welcome major tonality follows and introduces the first sign of hope, expressed in the refrain (mm. 40-55). Minor key, open 4ths and 5ths, and heaviness return at ms. 59 for the next 10 measures before the scene returns to hope (mm. 74-92). So far we’ve been telling the story about Jesus, but at this point we step into the story and hear Jesus’ pivotal prayer “Father, Thy will be done.” Jesus has, indeed, found strength to obey and to be faithful to His calling. The major tonality at the end seems to say, “I can do this; I will do this.”

Mm. 63-68 are slightly challenging because the words come quickly in the melody. Have sopranos and altos practice speaking that section of text, paying attention to the natural speech rhythm. Then, have them sing those lines with the same inflection. Encourage the tenors and basses to lighten up, but still provide supportive harmony for the melody.