

Sunday Savers II

Five Anthems for the Church Year
Easily Prepared in One Rehearsal

by

JAY ALTHOUSE

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A full-performance/accompaniment CD is available separately (No. 11885).

O SING THIS ANTHEM, SONG OF PRAISE

For Christ the King Sunday, Ascension or General Services

for two-part mixed voices, accompanied

Words and Music by
JAY ALTHOUSE

Moderato (♩ = ca. 120)

ACCOMP.

4 WOMEN 5 *f*

O sing this an - them, song of praise.

MEN *f*

8

To God our voic - es now we raise.

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Quick-and-Easy Rehearsal Suggestions

O SING THIS ANTHEM, SONG OF PRAISE is a general anthem that may be especially appropriate for Christ the King Sunday or Ascension. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalms 93 and 97, Jeremiah 23: 1–6, John 17: 20–26 and 18: 33–37, Acts 16: 16–34, and Revelation 1: 4b–8 and 22: 12–20. One basic homiletical theme is that Jesus is King, the Lord of all creation.

In Rehearsal:

- As the singers silently read along, play the anthem at performance tempo with artful dynamics and phrasing. If the cued vocal pitches are to be performed, assign them.
- Sing the anthem on a neutral syllable such as “naw.”
- Repeat the anthem on “naw” while carefully tuning the ascending and descending scales. Instruct the singers to sing big steps ascending and small steps descending in order to compensate for the downward pull of gravity.
- After pitch and intonation are secure, sing the text with sensitive declamation.
- This anthem should be performed very legato, with a basic feeling of two pulses per measure.

ON A NIGHT OF WONDER is appropriate for Advent or, with the substitution of the italicized text, Christmas. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings for Advent include Isaiah 7: 10–14, Romans 1: 1–7 and Matthew 1: 18–24; one basic homiletical theme is preparing for the birth of the Messiah, sent from heaven by God to bring salvation to the earth. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings for Christmas include Isaiah 9: 1–6, Titus 2: 11–14 and Luke 2: 1–14; one basic homiletical theme is that the Child born this holiest of nights is Emmanuel, the Son of God.

In Rehearsal:

- As the singers silently read along, play the anthem at performance tempo with artful dynamics and phrasing. If the cued vocal pitches are to be performed, assign them.
- Sing the anthem on a focused neutral syllable such as “noo.”
- Repeat mm. 19–26 on “noo,” carefully tuning each chord. Sagging intonation can occur in passages with many repeated notes. Caution the singers to think of each repeated pitch as being slightly higher than the previous pitch.
- After pitch and intonation are secure, sing the text with sensitive declamation.
- This anthem should be performed very legato with a strong feeling of the underlying eighth-note pulse.

Additional voicings of these anthems are available in separate octavo editions:

O Sing This Anthem, Song of Praise

- SATB, No. 4941

On a Night of Wonder

- SATB, No. 11477
- SAB, No. 11478

ON A NIGHT OF WONDER

For Advent or Christmas*

for two-part mixed voices, accompanied

Words and Music by
JAY ALTHOUSE

Gently ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 76-80$)

WOMEN

MEN

ACCOMP.

mp

3 *mp*

On a night of

Gently ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 76-80$)

mp

4

won - der, on a night filled with love,

The musical score is written for two-part mixed voices (Women and Men) and piano accompaniment. It is in 4/4 time and marked 'Gently' with a tempo of approximately 76-80 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score consists of two systems. The first system shows the vocal entries for Women and Men, with the piano accompaniment. The Women's part begins with a rest followed by a triplet of eighth notes. The Men's part has a rest. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and whole notes in the left hand. The second system continues the vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The Women's part has a measure rest followed by the lyrics 'won - der, on a night filled with love,'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

* For Christmas, sing text in italics.

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