

PREPARE YE!

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied,
with opt. soloist and percussion*

Words adapted from scripture by
JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN

Traditional Jamaican Folk Song
Arranged by **ANNA LAURA PAGE**
and **JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN**

With energy! (♩ = ca. 126)

ACCOMP.

(+ perc.)
mf

The first system of the piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The right hand has a whole rest, while the left hand plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, starting with a half note F#2 and moving up stepwise.

The second system of the piano accompaniment continues the rhythmic pattern from the first system, with the right hand still having a whole rest and the left hand playing the eighth and sixteenth note figures.

9

1st time: SOLO (opt. unis. women)
2nd time: ALL VOICES

S. *mf*
A.
T. *mf*
B.

Pre-prepare ye the way of God, a path in the

The third system features vocal staves for Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), and Bass (B.). The Soprano and Tenor parts have lyrics: "Pre-prepare ye the way of God, a path in the". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern, now including chords in the right hand.

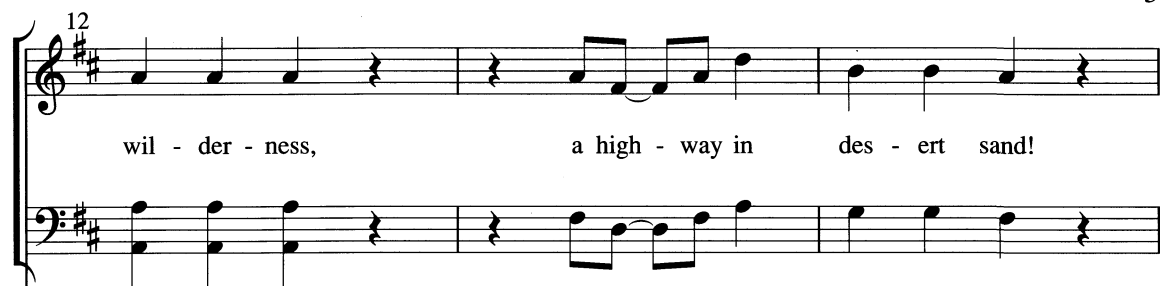
* Also available for 2-part any combination voices, No. 20947.

Parts for claves and maracas, No. 20949, and a full-performance/accompaniment compact disc, No. 20948, are available separately.

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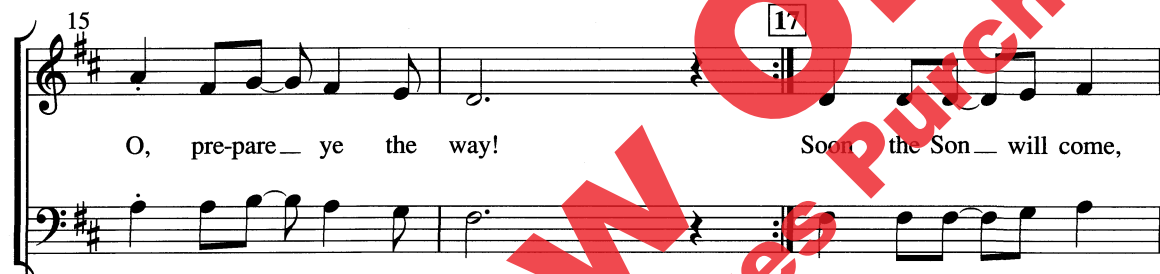
12



wil - der - ness, a high - way in des - ert sand!



15



O, pre-pare_ ye the way! Soon the Son_ will come,

17

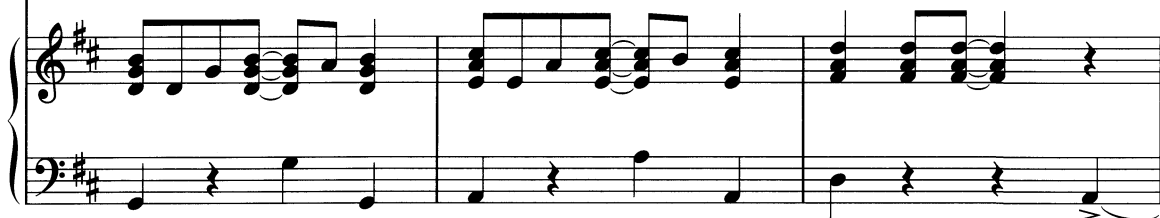


(- perc.) (+ perc.)

18



shine on ev_ry-one, turn the dark - est night in - to broad_ day-light!
shine, shine,_ dark night,_ day - light!_



21

Soon the Son— will come, ho - ly bless - ed One. O, pre-pare— ye the

ho - ly.—

(- perc.)

24

way!

(+ perc.)

27

29 SOLO (opt. sopranos)
A voice— in the

mf

mp

(Choir) Doo doo—

mp

30 wil - der - ness is cry - ing, "Your sin con - fess!"

doo doo doo doo — doo doo

33 ALL *mf*

You bet - ter do as it says! O, pre-pare — ye the

mf

mf (- perc.)

36 37

way! Soon the Son — will come, shine on ev - 'ry-one,

(+ perc.)

39

turn the dark - est night in - to broad - day-light! Soon the Son - will come,

42

ho - ly bless - ed One. O, pre-pare - ye the way.

(-perc.) (+perc.)

45

49

53 DESCANT (2nd time only)

f

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

S. *mf-f*
A.

The val - leys are ech - o - ing the news of the

T. *mf-f*
B.

53 *mf-f*
(+ perc.)

56

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

ti - ny King, the Sav - ior, the Prom - ised One!

56

59 [61] *mp cresc. poco a poco*

O, pre-pare — ye the way! Soon the

O, pre-pare — ye the way! *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Soon the Son — will come, *mp cresc. poco a poco*

59 [61]

(- perc.) (2nd time) (+ perc.) *mp cresc. poco a poco*

62 *mf*

night will turn to day - light! —

mf

shine on ev'ry-one, turn the dark - est night in - to broad — day-light!

mf

shine, shine, — dark night —

62 *mf*

65 *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Soon He'll come. O, pre-pare__ ye the

mp cresc. poco a poco

Soon the Son__ will come, ho - ly bless - ed One. O, pre-pare__ ye the

mp cresc. poco a poco

ho - ly.__

65 *mp cresc. poco a poco* (+ perc.)

68 *mf*

way! Soon the night will

mf cresc. poco a poco

way! Soon the Son__ will come, shine on ev - 'ry-one,

mf cresc. poco a poco

68 *mf* (+ perc.)

69 *cresc. poco a poco*

71

f *mf cresc. poco a poco*

turn to day - light!_ Soon He'll

turn the dark - est night in - to broad_ day-light! Soon the Son_ will come,

f *mf cresc. poco a poco*

71

f *mf cresc. poco a poco*

74

f

come. O, pre-pare_ ye the way!

f

ho - ly bless - ed One. O, pre-pare_ ye the way!

f

74

(- perc.) *f* (+ perc.)

77

O, pre-pare__ ye the way!

mf

O, pre-pare__ ye the

77

(- perc.)

mf

(+ perc.)

80

way!

80

(+ perc.)

mp

(bring out)

sfz

8^{vb}.

Isaiah 40: 3-5

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord;

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill made low;

The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth;

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.’”

Prepare Ye! is an energetic Advent anthem whose melody is based upon a traditional Jamaican folk hymn. To this melody the arrangers have added a new text inspired by several scriptures, especially Isaiah 40: 3-5 and Mark 1: 22-23. Additional corresponding scripture readings include Isaiah 7: 13-14 & 9: 6, Matthew 1: 22-23 and John 1: 23-27. One basic homiletical theme is preparing, through prayer and worship, for the coming of the Son of God, who is the Lord of Light.

Repetition is a key element in this lively anthem. Contrast repeated sections through the use of a soloist (as marked) or small sections of the choir in call-and-response with the whole choir. Percussion accompaniment adds a special touch. A score for claves and maracas, No. 20949, and a full-performance/accompaniment compact disc recording, No. 20948, are available separately.

Jean Anne Shafferman is Director of Church Choral Publications for Alfred Publishing Company. A graduate of the University of Kentucky with a B.M.E. in vocal music education and an M.A. in music theory, she is active as a church musician, clinician and composer and has served as the Eastern Division Music in Worship Chairperson for the American Choral Directors' Association.

Anna Laura Page is Handbell Editor for Alfred Publishing Company. She received her B.M.E. in vocal music education and M.M. in music theory from the University of Kentucky. Active as a composer, clinician and organ recitalist, she has served on the Music Committee of the Southern Baptist Hymnal Committee and has received the ASCAP Standards Award annually for the past several years. Ms. Page currently resides in Sherman, Texas, where her husband, Oscar, is president of Austin College.

