## WHY DO THEY MOCK YOU, LORD?

for two-part any combination voices, accompanied\*

Words and Music by RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM



<sup>\*</sup> When performed by mixed voices, men sing Part I, women sing Part II.















Why Do They Mock You, Jesus? is an anthem for Lent or Holy Week. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Isaiah 52: 13 - 53: 12, Matthew 27: 27-44, Mark 15: 16-32, and John 18: 1-11: 42. One basic homiletical theme is Jesus the Faithful Servant.

Introduce the anthem in rehearsal by teaching the opening melody (m. 5-12) to all of the singers. To improve ensemble intonation and blend, rehearse this melody on a neutral syllable such as "noo" until pure unisons (or octaves) are achieved. Carefully observe the dynamics in m. 20-28 so that the melody is easily heard. The terraced dynamics in m. 38-55 are critical in creating the proper mood as the voices of the multitudes cry out in support of the suffering Savior.

Ruth Elaine Schram lives in Birmingham, Alabama, where she works for Shades Mountain Baptist Church. Active as a composer, arranger, and children's choir director, she also performs in the Kindred Spirit trio and was the Masters Musicians' 1987 Grand Prize Winner. She has over 70 published sacred works and is an ASCAP special awards recipient.



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