

My Lord, What a Morning is an African-American spiritual that is especially appropriate for Lent, Pentecost, and the first Sunday in Advent. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 25: 1-10, Matthew 24: 29-31, Mark 13: 24-27, and Luke 21: 25-28. One basic homiletical theme is preparing for the coming of the Kingdom of God as active servants of the Lord, enabled by the Holy Spirit.

In rehearsal, strive for controlled four-measure phrases, articulated with a very fluid, well-focused choral sound. Practice singing the melody in unison on a liquid syllable such as “noo.” Caution the singers to keep the sound energized, especially in the half notes. One technique that is useful for achieving an energized legato is singing the phrases with a constantly-pulsing eighth note, again on “noo.” To improve the tuning of the rich harmonies, practice singing chromatic ascending and descending scales, regarding ascending half-steps as larger than descending half-steps. In m. 21-28, the sopranos and tenors pair against the altos and basses. Rehearse the pairings separately until uniform ensemble is achieved.

Jay Althouse has written choral music for all levels of school and church choirs. He has over 300 choral compositions and arrangements in print. Jay received a B.S. in Music Education and an M. Ed. in Music from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He currently resides in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied

Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by JAY ALTHOUSE

Andante (♩ = ca. 84-88)

ACCOMP.



5

SOPRANO

mp unis.

ALTO

My Lord, what a morn - ing.

My Lord, what a morn - ing. O,

TENOR

mp unis.

BASS



9

my Lord, what a morn - ing when the stars — be - gin to



12 13

fall. — You'll hear the trum-pet — sound to wake the

mp

15

mf na - tions un - der - ground. — *mp* Look - ing to my God's right

mf *mp*

18

hand — when the stars — be - gin to fall.

21

S. *mf*

My Lord, what a morn - ing. My Lord, what a

A. *mf*

My Lord, O, what a morn - ing. My Lord,

T. *mf*

My Lord, what a morn - ing. My Lord, what a

B. *mf*

My Lord, O, what a morn - ing. My Lord,

21

mf

24

morn - ing. My Lord, what a morn - ing when the

O, what a morn - ing. My Lord, what a morn - ing when the

morn - ing. My Lord, what a morn - ing when the

O, what a morn - ing. My Lord, what a morn - ing when the

24

27 S. *mp* *mf*
 A. stars_ be - gin to fall. _ You'll hear the sin - ner _ moan to wake the

T. *mp* *mf*
 B.

31
 na - tions un - der - ground. _ Look - ing to my God's right

34 *decresc.*
 hand _ when the stars _ be - gin to fall.

decresc.
p

38

41
mp unis.

My Lord, what a morn - ing.

43

rit.

Slower

My Lord, what a morn - ing. O, my Lord, what a morn - ing when the

unis.

mp

p

Slower

rit.

47

stars be - gin to fall.

when the stars be - gin

p

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