

PRELUDE

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

Words by
PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

Based upon *PRELUDE IN C MINOR*
by FREDERIC CHOPIN (1810-1849)
Arranged by PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

Sustained, expressively (♩ = ca. 46)

ACCOMP.

mp *cresc.*

3

mf *dim.* *poco rit.*

⑤ SOPRANO & ALTO Unison
a tempo

Lord, I pray to Thee; Lord, God, set me free;

TENOR & BASS Unison

mp *a tempo* *mp* *a tempo*

7

cresc.

Lord, I rest in Thee; Give your peace and love to me.

cresc.

cresc.

9

A little faster

f

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Lord, have mer - cy.

f

A little faster

f

11

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, O Lord, hear my plea.

13 *f*

Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Christ, have mer - cy.

f

f

15 *dim.* *mf*

Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Christ, have mer - cy on

dim. *mf*

dim. *mf*

17 *rit.*

me.

rit.

19

Tempo I
unis.

mp

Lord, God, set me free, Lord, I

Tempo I

mp

21

pray to Thee.

23

rit.

dim. e rit.

rit. a fine

Prelude is a general anthem that is especially appropriate for Lent. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 51:10-17, Jeremiah 31: 31-34, John 12:20-33, and Hebrews 5:7-10. One basic homiletical theme is embracing the promise of redemption through faith in Jesus Christ.

A very legato articulation and well-tuned unison singing are essential to artful performances of this expressive anthem. In rehearsal, sing the entire anthem in unison on a focused, liquid neutral syllable such as “noo,” pulsing constant triplet eighth notes exactly aligned with the piano accompaniment. Shape the phrases dynamically as suggested by the natural rise and fall of their contours. Add the text without sacrificing ensemble precision or intonation. Some subtle freedoms of tempo may be taken.

Frederic Francois Chopin was born in Zelazowa Wola, Poland, on February 22, 1810 and died in Paris on October 17, 1849. Chopin wrote almost exclusively for the piano, including two concertos, three sonatas, thirty etudes, nineteen nocturnes, numerous waltzes, mazurkas, and polonaises, and twenty-four preludes. His preludes are short, intimate works conveying specific introspective moods. Chopin composed them during a period in which he was thoroughly immersed in the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. Reflecting Bach’s **Well-Tempered Clavier**, Chopin’s preludes were composed in a succession of major and relative minor keys that follows the circle of fifths (C Major/A Minor, G Major/E Minor, etc.). This anthem is based upon his Prelude No. 20, Opus 28 in C Minor.

Patrick M. Liebergen is Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin (Stout) and Director of the Chancel Choir at United Methodist Church, Menomonie, Wisconsin. With music degrees from St. Norbert College in DePere, Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin (Madison), and the University of Colorado (Boulder), Dr. Liebergen frequently appears throughout the country as an adjudicator and clinician. His choral editions, arrangements and original works are widely published. Dr. Liebergen was the 1988 winner of the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association Composition Competition and the 1990 Winner of the Anthem Contest sponsored by the Twin Cities Church Musicians Association.

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