

## Perhaps a Star

### Recording Instructions

Thank you so much for giving a human voice to this composition for Epiphany. This piece is longer and more complicated than the hymns we have been singing, but I think it is doable. For those of you who have recorded hymns online at St Marks some of these steps may be familiar, although there will be a few things that are different.

#### What you need

A device (computer, iPad, phone, mp3 player) that you can use as the player for the guide MP3.

Earphones for the player.

A second device (computer, iPad, phone, etc.) that can record. We have had good results with people using their cell phones and the “memo” app or some other recording app for the recording. All we need is an MP3 final recording.

The score. You can print the one provided, or view it on the player device, if it has a big enough screen. If you have trouble printing it, give me a call (505 400 4247) and I will mail or drop by a hard copy.

#### Your guide recordings

You will download or get via email two guide recordings. One is titled *Perhaps All Parts*. Listen to this first, as it provides some idea of how the whole piece should kind of sound like (the computerized voices are nowhere near as good as yours), and the sequence of parts. It has a fairly heavy piano background, but you should be able to hear the parts and have a basis for understating the sequence of parts and where the singing should go. There is a short piano interlude after the first verse and chorus.

You will also need a second guide recording that is specifically for your part (*Perhaps Soprano*, etc.). This one has all the parts, but yours is much louder, so you can easily hear what it should sound like.

#### What to do:

**Load and Listen:** Load the *All Parts* guide recording, and listen to it several times, while following on the score.

**Sing along with the recording.** Then, load your guide part (*Perhaps Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass*) and listen to it, following on the score. Then, sing along with the guide part several times until you are comfortable with it. Many of you are great at sight reading, so you may be able to skip this step or just do it a few times, but remember you will have this recording as a guide when you record your part.

**Make your recording.** Set up your two devices, the player that you will listen to through the earphones, and the recorder.

We are trying a new technique to help in processing and combining the parts. One persistent problem is synchronizing the parts, so they all end up sounding like a choir. For this recording, I am going to ask you to do something that may sound strange but should help.

The recording begins with three big piano chords. Before you start playing the guide recording, place your microphone or phone close to one of your earpieces so it can pick up those three chords. The three chords will be followed by 3 ½ measures of piano introduction, so you should have time to put your earphones back on before you start recording your part.

Find a quiet place and record your part. Listen to it once, just to make sure that the grandfather clock is not chiming, or garbage truck is driving by to give the recording too much local flavor. Dynamics are interesting with this electronic medium. Importantly, we need a recording that has sufficient volume for us to use. If it is recorded too quietly, we have no way to make it louder, though we can easily make it quieter if it is too loud. The score has dynamics marked, and it will be a better piece if all of us follow them. However, because of the need for a recording with sufficient volume, think of all the dynamics as one or two steps higher (mp=mf, mf=f, etc.) than you would usually sing in a group. Like many aspects of life, things are relative.

#### **Specific notes for Voices**

Sopranos, sing out that final high D of the piece, even though the dynamics are PP.

Basses, in the second section in which you are singing with the tenors, I have kept your part above a low G, with otherwise lower notes going up an octave to be the same as the tenors. If you have notes below the G, please sing them. I love strong low bass notes from you basso profundos.

**Once you are done with your recording, send it to me ([forpsych@aol.com](mailto:forpsych@aol.com)).**

**Note: Please get your in before December 4. It will take some time to put all the parts together, balance, etc.**

Thanks again for participating in the creation of the first performance of this piece.

If you have any questions or problems, please call me at 505 400 4247.

Bill Foote