

## **NE Region Director's Notes – Mass Numbers**

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Hi, Everyone –

Looking forward to Medford this year! Here are my notes –nothing too shocking, promise!

### **Here I Am, Lord –**

I passed this one on to Cheryl Diener to direct this year – please check her notes.

### **I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**

Really enjoy this piece – we get to do lots of different things to make it interesting!

The things to watch most:

- Be sure to maintain the rhythms throughout. At the beginning and a few other straight-rhythm sections, there can be a tendency to speed up – so just be aware.
- We will do our best to follow the timing of the piece throughout – watch for the ritard at m. 41 and the formata at m. 43 – we will cut off as indicated and come in together at beat 4. Note the slower tempo there, too.
- At m. 59, we will hold again – and depending on how well we can come in together on beat 4 in rehearsal, I may take a little creative license and have us cut off and start together – similar to what we do in m. 43. Notice the slower tempo starting here, too.
- I am going to start the ritard a little early at the end – starting at m. 87 – so please watch as I give everyone each beat to play, especially at m.91-92.

### **When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

The challenge of this piece is tempo changes and key changes (something new for bell music, right?)

Things to watch most:

- The formata at m. 5 – strange place for it, with a carry-over into m.6 like that, but we will observe it – please watch me to indicate moving on to m. 6 where I will start the faster tempo to have us set for the next section.
- I will slow us slightly atm. 22 where we go to 4/4 from 3/4 and have a key change. I will slow again at m.26 – I am sure you will just feel how it should be that way. Have your chimes ready!
- At m. 45 I will slow slightly as we return to 3/4 and yet another key change – be aware and ready for the tempo to increase to be similar to the beginning.
- At the ending – my goal is to have us get softer and softer through mm. 80-84 that people will be straining to hear us. The last notes need to be hit with the mallets as softly as possible while still getting a sound. And, we will need to be together – so watch.

### **In Christ There is No East or West**

For many of us, this is a repeat number – but it has its challenges.

Things to watch for:

- Syncopated rhythms – staying together
- Malleting – mm 12-19 – be very careful to not run away with the piece – an easy thing to do if not paying attention!
- We will slow slightly at m. 23-28 and pick up again just before m.29
- Please watch me at m. 46 so we table-damp-lift and ring together as one.

### **Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring**

What a fun piece for bells! I will conduct this in 3 beats per measure.

Things to watch for:

- Take care to maintain the tempo throughout – keep the dance-like quality in the triplets, without speeding up
- While the triplets are fun, they are the frosting throughout – let the other parts come through
- Mm. 16, 31, 42, 48, 59 – please take care those of you who have the 1/16<sup>th</sup> note rhythms to not get caught up in the triplet rhythm
- Please watch me at m.71 – I will be slowing us down throughout this measure so we can end together. I will give you each beat of that measure and the chord at m. 71

### **Lift High the Cross**

A beautiful piece with great partnership between the bells and the piano!

Things to watch for:

- Be strong and confident throughout – this piece screams for it!
- The piece almost makes you feel where to get louder and softer – but pay attention to the indications in the music anyway.
- At m. 16 and onward, bass notes – please be very careful to be as precise as possible on the syncopated rhythms you have
- At m. 24, I hope to slow slightly – but if it is better as a group to stay in tempo, we will. Be flexible 😊.
- I will slow during m. 35 to get us into the next section
- At m. 44, will slow us just a little to get into that refrain
- Be ready for the key change at m. 52 and the ritard starting at m. 54 into m. 55
- We need to be *ff* at m. 56, but save just a little for m. 68 to the end.
- At m. 67, please watch me – I will direct each note so to slow together for that great ending!!

Thank you all for the privilege of directing for you again this year – the power of the music we create together for God's glory makes my heart want to burst when I stand before you.

See you soon!

Debi