

## Northeast Region – Mass Choir Director’s Notes – 2024

### ***Amazing Grace***

Opening piece in the festival under the “Pray” section.

Choir and keyboard will lead the congregational singing – CW 576:1-4.

Tempo – 82 for the verses / a tad slower for the beginning and ending.

Beginning – I will direct one full measure, then 2 more beats. Come in on beat 3.

m 2 & 4 Fermatas – add one extra beat. Count 1, 2, Hold, 3.

m 10 ff LV’s for the eighth notes, damp before each new LV and begin the let vibrate again.

m 12 Fermata – one extra beat, then a cut off, then I will give a downbeat for beat 3.

m 28 Watch for cut off and beginning of Stanza 2.

m 44 Watch for cut off and beginning of Stanza 3.

m 45-50 Accent the chord on beat 2.

m 67 Slight ritard.

m 68 Fermata – one extra beat, cut off, Stanza 4 loud and triumphant.

m 82 & 83 No ritard.

m 84 Fermata, watch for cut off, mp and slower to the end.

m 90-92 Ritard, fermata, watch for cut off – may be longer as the bells die out.

### ***The Day of Resurrection***

Song #9 in the festival under the “Praise” section.

This will be an awesome “praise” song with bells, keyboard, instruments, and choir!

(No congregational singing; we will just let the audience enjoy the piece.)

Tempo – 90, so we all stay together.

m 0 I will direct 4 beats.

m 1 Organ and tuba come in on beat 1, bells start on beat 4.

m 3–4 & m 6–7 Shake straight through.

m 11 No fermata, watch for cut off, down beat on beat 4 for SATB choir and bells, play and sing confidently.

m 27 Cut off, Stanza 2 women begin singing,

Treble bells stems down – mf, stems up – mp, bass eighth notes with LV’s – mp.

m 35 Men singers.

Treble stems down & bass stems up ring – mf, bass stems down – mallet, treble stems up – still mp.

m 43–51 Interlude, slower if needed.

m 44–45 & m 46-47 Shake through.

m 50 Slight ritard.

m 51 Cut off, Stanza 3 SATB & descant, loud and triumphant and a bit slower.

m 66 No ritard.

m 67 Half note shakes, restrike.

m 68 Fermata, watch for cut off, so we all end together!

## ***Easter Exaltation***

Final song of the concert under the "Give Thanks" section.

I'd like to share the description for this piece from Handbell World:

A highly chromatic, dynamically expressive, slow tempoed 14 measures acts as an introduction to the first hymn tune in this medley, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" is marked 'joyfully' and increases the tempo. A chromatic, extended modulation leads into a single setting of "Ode to Joy." "Alleluia" from Mozart is next, then "Hallelujah" from Beethoven. A hymn tune comes afterwards, "Crown Him with Many Crowns" and the work finishes up with an excerpt of Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus.

Wow! It sounds challenging, right?! It is, but we can do it and give our concert a majestic ending!

If you are a 3 or 4 octave choir, feel free to ring the notes in parentheses and brackets.

m 1-14 Introduction – slow, accurate, expressive

m 2 ff Pluck or mallet bass notes

m 15, 37, 53, 61 Watch key changes and accidentals

m 31 ff A bit slower for the modulation

m 41 & 49 Bring out bass melody

The last 2 lines of my copy have incorrect measure numbering. Please check your copy and number 88-94.

m 86-end Watch shakes, swings, and accents.

m 92-94 Ritard and crescendo to a nice CM chord at the end!

I look forward to seeing you at festival! Feel free to contact me if you have questions about these Mass songs.

Becky Miller – St. Peter – Weyauwega

[rebeccamiller7@aol.com](mailto:rebeccamiller7@aol.com)

715-498-1518