

Mass Director's Notes (part 1)—Southeast Regional

Prepare the Royal Highway

- There will be oboe and percussion with this piece.
- Tempo: I would like to take this piece on the upper end of the tempo range—around 60 bpm for the dotted half note or 180 bpm for the quarter note. The piece will be directed “in one” rather than in 3/4.
- With the upbeat tempo, please be precise with LVs, ringing, and damping. Emphasizing the first beat of each measure (especially in the malleted section) will also help to keep everyone together. Please especially be sure you are ringing together in measures 61-74.
- There are no ritards in this piece, so please be conscious of keeping a steady tempo throughout, especially in measures 41-56 and 94-110 (where it's easy to slow down) and measures 111-154 (where it's easy to speed up the malleted notes).
- Let the melody predominate throughout, especially in measures 78-94 (bass).
- If you don't have handchimes, please don't play in measures 94 (beat three)-110.
- Keep the ring touch in measure 165 as short as possible, and please don't come in early on measure 166.
- Be conscious of playing measures 167-168 cleanly so that we all end together.

Easter Joy

- There will be a brass ensemble with this piece.
- I will take the tempo as written—around 104 bpm—and I will observe the ritard at measure 69. Please be conscious of keeping a steady tempo throughout (except for the ritard at the end), especially in measures 49-65 (where it's easy to speed up the malleted notes).
- If you don't have handchimes, please don't play the diamond-shaped notes in measures 31-46.
- Let the melody predominate throughout, especially in measures 31-46 (bass and lower treble; keep the upper treble harmony notes soft in these measures).
- Be conscious of playing measure 71 cleanly so that we all end together.

Benediction

- There will be a vocal choir with this piece.
- I will take the tempo as written—around 76 bpm.
- I will NOT observe the ritard in measure 27 but WILL observe the ritard in the second half of measure 31.
- Please follow the LVs and dynamics throughout.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

- This is the closing piece for the concert, so please be prepared to end on a high note!
- I will take the tempo as written—around 112 bpm. Please be conscious of keeping a steady tempo throughout, especially in measures 34-41 (where it's easy for the bass to slow down and the treble to speed up) and measures 54-60 (where softer does not mean slower 😊).
- Be prepared for the accidentals in measures 5-6, 30-31, and 75-76.
- Observe all accents, especially the accents on the eighth notes in measures 7-10 and 75-78.
- Let the melody predominate throughout, especially in measures 34-41 (bass and lower treble; keep the upper treble harmony notes soft in these measures).
- **Please eliminate the tie from beat 4 to beat 1 in measures 34-35 and measures 38-39. That is, please re-ring the Fs on beat 1 of measures 35 and 39.**

Please let me know if you have any questions. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at festival!

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