

Victory's Crown

A MUSICAL FOR EASTER

REHEARSAL GUIDE

by Dennis Allen

“Our God Reigns” with “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

I love this classic song that uses the great Isaiah 52 passage as its opening text. The very singable “our God reigns” chorus is a perfect place to ask the congregation to sing along. In Verse 2, work on the *divisi* choir parts, keeping the melody central but blending in the rest. Each time you move from a verse to the chorus, build the energy and volume. When you reach the “crown Him with many crowns” middle section, invite your congregation to join in singing.

“Victor’s Crown”

This contemporary favorite has a great text, but the rhythms are intricate. Rehearse the verses *a cappella* to ensure the lyrics are being enunciated clearly. The chorus simplifies the lyrics and music a great deal, which creates other issues to consider, such as singing good, open vowels on “hallelujah” and “overcome.” At the bridge (meas. 40 and forward), add extra vocal energy to punctuate the message. The final verse (meas. 47) should begin with soft energy in the S.A. singers, leading toward an explosive *forte* for the choir in meas. 50 to the end.

“Ten Thousand Angels”

This is certainly a favorite song for many in your congregation, so add a great deal of heart and warmth in your singing. This simple text relates the story of those final hours before the crucifixion of Jesus. When you reach the chorus, let your vocals grow to express the grandeur needed. The chorus phrases are long, so take in plenty of air so they will stay full of energy. This arrangement includes a slight “stretch” of the lyrics in meas. 76-77. Slow the tempo and add extra emotion to this powerful passage.

“Christ Arose Medley”

This medley contains three familiar songs that are perfect for Easter, so ask the congregation to join the choir as they sing. The tempo between each song basically stays the same, so once you get started, keep your vocal energy high. On the second song (“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”), the arrangement gives the S.A. and T.B. sections a couple of phrases to sing alone, but you can have both groups sing together if it fits your needs better.

“God Leads Us Along”

Tender, comforting, and encouraging are words that describe this beautiful hymn. Practice clearly enunciating these touching lyrics. The medium tempo of this song causes the phrases to be longer, so support your singing with good breaths. An option for the verses, especially the third one in the new key, is to allow a male soloist to begin the verse, and then have a female soloist sing the S.A. part. This will make a lovely duet. The choir can resume again at the chorus.