

King of kings

A MUSICAL FOR EASTER

REHEARSAL GUIDE

by Dennis Allen

“Come, Worship the King”

This opener includes familiar material, so after the opening “choral fanfare,” the director should invite the congregation to stand and join in singing. There are no tricks in the arrangement ... just a triumphant opening celebrating our risen King of kings!

“King of Kings”

In my opinion, this is one of the best songs in recent years. Churches have been using this one frequently, so inviting your congregation to sing along is again a good idea. If there is anything tricky about this song, it is the syncopating rhythms of the verses. So rehearse all the verses *a cappella*. This will highlight any rhythm issues. Dynamics are one of the most overlooked areas for many choirs. Carefully singing the soft sections, then growing majestically to the louder choruses will make your singing so much more effective!

“The Cross”

Once again, the congregation is invited to sing along with some of the most-loved Easter hymns. There are no tricks in the arrangement ... just a chance for heartwarming remembrance of great texts about the cross of our Lord.

“What Wondrous Love Is This” with “You Are My King (Amazing Love)”

This has always been a favorite hymn of mine. The haunting melody and minor key combine to draw me into the simple lyric, which lets me ponder God’s amazing love. This is familiar enough for the congregation to sing as well, but consider letting this be a choir-only feature and projecting pictures of scenes from the cross. You could invite the congregation to join as the familiar chorus “You Are My King (Amazing Love)” begins at the end.

“Child of the King”

This arrangement will give a joyous style “lift” to the musical. This is a classic gospel song that will be fun for your choir. Be sure to express the “oh yes, oh yes” beginning of each chorus with separation of the rhythms and joy in your singing. In the key change verse beginning in meas. 45, use a duet to start it off.

“Who You Say I Am”

Retelling the Easter story is a beautiful process, but it is made even more meaningful when you include its result in our lives. Jesus lived and died for us. That is a powerful thought, and this great song describes this amazing gift. Attention to dynamic contrast will make this arrangement effective. When the song indicates to sing powerfully, let it go. When you want to draw in your listener, make the softer sections contain the hushed intensity they need.

“Finale: Come, Worship the King”

This finale is similar to the opener, but it contains several new songs. Included is a brief statement of the “Hallelujah Chorus,” which goes into our title song “King of Kings.” Once again, your congregation will want to sing along, certainly by the Messiah portion. Invite them to stand and help you close this musical as one singing body.