

A Voice Cries Out

for Jim de Manuele, C.P.

for Assembly, Cantor, SATB Choir, Keyboard, Guitar, Flute, and Oboe

Isaiah 40:1-11

Michael Joncas

INTRO: With strength (♩ = ca. 168)

Keyboard

VERSE 1: Cantor

mf

1. Con - sole my peo - ple, the ones dear to me; speak to the

p

simile

simile

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1. heart of Je - ru - sa - lem: _____ the time of your mourn - ing is

1. end - ed now, _____ the Lord of life will come. _____

REFRAIN: All

mf
A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Pre - pare a

way for the Lord! _____ A voice cries out in the wil - der -

- ness: Make straight a high - way for God! _____

VERSE 2:

Soprano *mf*

Alto 2. Ev - 'ry val - ley is made a plain, ev - 'ry moun - tain is

Tenor

Bass *mf*

2. the glo - ry of God _____

2. lev - eled _____ the glo - ry of God _____ shall then be re -

f

2. _____ and the

2. - vealed, and the na - tions will sing in praise. _____

This system contains the first two lines of music. The top line is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It begins with a whole note chord of F# and C, followed by a melodic line. The bottom line is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, starting with a whole note chord of F# and C, followed by a bass line. The lyrics are: "2. - vealed, and the na - tions will sing in praise. _____".

REFRAIN: All

mp A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Pre - pare a

p way for the Lord! _____ *simile* A voice cries out in the

This section contains the refrain, divided into two systems. The first system has a vocal line in treble clef starting with a whole note chord of F# and C, followed by the lyrics "A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Pre - pare a". The piano accompaniment in bass clef starts with a whole note chord of F# and C, followed by a bass line. The second system continues the vocal line with "way for the Lord! _____" and then "A voice cries out in the". The piano accompaniment continues with a similar bass line. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano). The word *simile* is written above the piano accompaniment in the second system.

wil - der - ness: Make straight a high-way for God! _____

This system contains the vocal melody and piano accompaniment for the first part of the piece. The vocal line is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "wil - der - ness: Make straight a high-way for God! _____".

VERSE 3:

Cantor *p*
3. A voice shouts: "Cry!" O what shall I cry? All flesh is like

Soprano *pp*

Alto 3. Ah

Tenor

Bass *pp*

p *simile*

simile

This section is titled "VERSE 3:" and features five vocal parts and piano accompaniment. The Cantor part has the lyrics: "3. A voice shouts: 'Cry!' O what shall I cry? All flesh is like". The Soprano part has the lyrics: "3. Ah". The piano accompaniment includes dynamic markings *p* and *simile*. The key signature remains one sharp (F#).

mp

3. grass and its flow - ers: _____ the grass may with - er, the

cresc.
p

3. _____ Ah _____

cresc.

The first system of music features a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are "3. grass and its flow - ers: _____ the grass may with - er, the". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: a right-hand staff in treble clef and a left-hand staff in bass clef. The piano part includes a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *cresc.* (crescendo). A large watermark "PREVIEW" is overlaid on the score.

mf

3. flow - ers may fade, but the Word of the Lord is for - ev - er. _____

mf

3. _____ but the Word of the Lord is for - ev - er. _____

mf

The second system of music continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "3. flow - ers may fade, but the Word of the Lord is for - ev - er. _____". The piano part includes a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte). A large watermark "PREVIEW" is overlaid on the score.

REFRAIN: All

f
A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Pre -

mf Ah _____ Ah _____ *f* Pre -

f
A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Pre -

mf simile

simile

pare a way for the Lord! _____ A

pare _____ a way for the Lord! (for the Lord!) _____

pare _____ a way for the Lord! (for the Lord!) A

voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Make *cresc.*
Ah Ah Make *cresc.*
voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Make *cresc.*

The first system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are "voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Make". The second staff is a vocal line in treble clef with the lyrics "Ah Ah Make". The third staff is a vocal line in bass clef with the lyrics "voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Make". The fourth staff is a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

straight a high - way for God! *ff*
straight a high - way for God! *ff*
straight a high - way for God! *ff*

The second system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature. The lyrics are "straight a high - way for God!". The second staff is a vocal line in treble clef with the lyrics "straight a high - way for God!". The third staff is a vocal line in bass clef with the lyrics "straight a high - way for God!". The fourth staff is a piano accompaniment in grand staff with a key signature of one sharp. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The system concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to two sharps (F# and C#).

VERSE 4:

(S & A unison)

mf

4. Zi - on, shout from the moun - tain - top, lift up your

T *mf*

B 4. Zi - on, shout, shout from the moun - tain-top, lift your

4. voice, O Je - ru - sa - lem, _____ and say to the peo - ple of

4. voice, O Je - ru - sa - lem, say to the peo - ple of

div. "Be - hold your God!" _____

4. God's _____ own land, "Be - hold, be - hold your God!" _____

REFRAIN: All

The musical score is arranged in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system begins with a vocal line marked *mp* and a piano accompaniment marked *p*. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment, with the piano part marked *simile*. The third system concludes the vocal line and piano accompaniment, with the piano part marked *simile*. The lyrics are: "A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Pre - pare a way for the Lord! _____ A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Make straight a high-way for God! _____".

mp

A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Pre - pare a

mp

p

simile

simile

way for the Lord! _____ A voice cries out in the

wil - der - ness: Make straight a high-way for God! _____

(b)

VERSE 5:

5. The Lord will ap - pear as a shep - herd, _____ hold - ing his

p *simile*

5. lambs in his arms, _____ keep - ing his flock so _____

5. close to his heart, _____ lead - ing them all, old and young. _____

FINAL REFRAIN: All

Cantor *f*
A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Pre -

Soprano *mf*
Ah _____ Ah _____ Pre -

Alto _____

Tenor *f*
A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Pre -

Bass _____

mf *simile* *simile*

pare a way for the Lord! _____ A

pare _____ a way for the Lord! (for the Lord!)

pare _____ a way for the Lord! (for the Lord!) A

voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: *cresc.* Make *cresc.*

Ah Ah Make *cresc.*

voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Make

straight a high - way for God! *ff*

straight a high - way for God! *ff*

straight a high - way for God! *ff*

straight a high - way for God! *p* (subito)

mp *rit. e dim.* *pp*

A Voice Cries Out

for Jim de Manuele, C.P.

(Guitar/Vocal)

Isaiah 40:1-11

Michael Joncas

INTRO: *With strength* (♩ = ca. 168)

p Em A Em A Em D Em

B7 Em A Em A Cmaj7 D E

mp *cresc.* *mf*

VERSE 1:

mf D E

1. Con - sole my peo - ple, the ones dear to me; speak to the

D E

1. heart of Je - ru - sa - lem: _____ the time of your mourn - ing is

D E D E

1. end - ed now, _____ the Lord of life will come. _____

REFRAIN:

Em A Em A Em

mf-mp-f-mp-f

A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Pre - pare a

D Em B7 Em A Em

way for the Lord! _____ A voice cries out in the wil - der -

A Cmaj7 D last time *cresc.* **1-4** E **Final** E *ff*
 - ness: Make straight a high-way for God! _____ God! _____
 to Verses

Em A Em A Cmaj7 D rit e dim. Em **Fine**

VERSE 2:

mf E D E D7 G F
 2. Ev - 'ry val - ley is made a plain, ev - 'ry moun-tain is

G B7 *f* E A C#m
 2. lev - eled _____ the glo - ry of God _____ shall then be re -

G#m G B7 E **D.S.**
 2. vealed, and the na - tions will sing in praise. _____

VERSE 3:

p E D E
 3. A voice shouts: "Cry!" O what shall I cry? All flesh is like

D *mp* E
 3. grass and its flow - ers: _____ the grass may with - er, the

D *mf* E D E **D.S.**
 3. flow - ers may fade, but the Word of the Lord is for - ev - er. _____

VERSE 4:

mf E D E D7 G

4. Zi - on, shout from the moun - tain - top, lift up your

F G B7 E A

4. voice, O Je - ru - sa - lem, _____ and say to the peo - ple of

C#m G#m G B7 E D.S.

4. God's _____ own land, "Be - hold, be - hold your God!" _____

VERSE 5:

p E D E

5. The Lord will ap - pear as a shep - herd, _____ hold - ing his

D E

5. lambs in his arms, _____ keep - ing his flock so

D E D E D.S. al Fine

5. close to his heart, lead - ing them all, old and young. _____

A Voice Cries Out

FLUTE

Michael Joncas

INTRO: *With strength* (♩ = ca. 168)

Musical notation for the Intro, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a series of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a half note.

Musical notation for Verse 1, continuing the melody from the Intro. It includes a measure rest followed by a double bar line and a repeat sign. The section is labeled "VERSE 1: 15".

Musical notation for the Refrain/Final Refrain, marked with a section sign (§). It includes a measure rest followed by a double bar line and a repeat sign. The dynamic is *mf-f*. The text "(8va Final Refrain only)" is written above the staff.

Musical notation for Verses 2, 4 and the Refrain. It includes a measure rest followed by a double bar line and a repeat sign. The text "Last time to Coda" is written above the staff. The section is labeled "VERSES 2,4: 15". The Refrain is marked with a section sign (§) and labeled "REFRAIN: 8va 2nd time" above the staff. The dynamic is *mp*.

Musical notation for Verses 3, 5, featuring a series of eighth and quarter notes. It includes a measure rest followed by a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Musical notation for Verses 3, 5 and the *D.S.* (Da Capo) section. It includes a measure rest followed by a double bar line and a repeat sign. The section is labeled "VERSES 3,5: 15" and "D.S." above the staff.

Musical notation for the Coda, marked with a circled cross (⊕) and labeled "CODA (loco)". It includes a measure rest followed by a double bar line and a repeat sign. The section is labeled "CODA (loco)" above the staff and ends with a *Fine* marking.

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A Voice Cries Out

OBOE

Michael Joncas

INTRO: *With strength* (♩ = ca. 168)

VERSE 1: 15

REFRAIN/FINAL REFRAIN:

(8va Final Refrain only)

Last time to Coda ⊕ **VERSES 2,4:** 15

REFRAIN:

VERSES 3,5: 15

D.S.

⊕ **CODA**

2

(loco)

Fine

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Performance Notes

These verses constitute the prologue of the “Book of Consolation” in Deutero-Isaiah. In the original context they were probably prophetic poems directed to the Babylonian exiles to strengthen their hope in God as they struggled amidst historic calamity. Following the tradition of Mark (cf. Mark 1:3ff), Christians have applied these verses to the work of John the Baptizer as herald of the in-breaking kingdom of mercy manifest in Jesus.

I have used this setting often as a responsory song during the season of Advent. It may be employed as a processional (entrance, communion, recessional), a “hymn of the day” (following a homily), or possibly as a response during the Liturgy of the Word.

This is a sweeping setting, with a wide range in the congregational refrain. It should be sung with gusto, yet with a sense of delicacy.

— M.J.

Assembly Edition

A VOICE CRIES OUT

Michael Joncas

Verse 1

1. Con - sole my peo - ple, the ones dear to me; speak to the
 1. heart of Je - ru - sa - lem: the time of your mourn - ing is
 1. end - ed now, the Lord of life will come.

Refrain

A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: "Pre - pare a
 way for the Lord!" A voice cries out in the wil - der -
 ness: "Make straight a high - way for God!"

Verses 2, 4

2. Ev - 'ry val - ley is made a plain, ev - 'ry moun - tain is
 4. Zi - on, shout from the moun - tain top, lift up your voice, O Je -
 2. lev - eled; the glo - ry of God shall then be re -
 4. ru - sa - lem, and say to the peo - ple of God's own
 to Refrain

2. vealed, and the na - tions will sing in praise.
 4. land, "Be - hold, be - hold your God!"

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A Voice Cries Out

(Optional Inclusive-Language Text)

1. Console my people, the ones dear to me;
 speak to the heart of Jerusalem:
 the time of your mourning is ended now,
 the one with life will come.

REFRAIN:

A voice cries out in the wilderness:
 prepare a way for our God!
 A voice cries out in the wilderness:
 make straight a highway for God!

Edition #10000

2. No change
 3. (last line)
 ...but the Word of our God is forever.
 4. No change
 5. God, you will appear as a shepherd,
 holding your lambs in your arms,
 keeping your flock so close to your heart,
 leading them all, old and young.

Assembly Edition

A VOICE CRIES OUT (Continued)

Verse 3

3. A voice shouts: "Cry!" O what shall I cry? All flesh is like
 3. grass and its flow-ers: the grass may with-er, the
 3. flow-ers may fade, but the Word of the Lord is for - ev - er. to Refrain

Verse 5

5. The Lord will ap - pear as a shep - herd, hold - ing his
 5. lambs in his arms, keep - ing his flock so
 5. close to his heart, lead - ing them all, old and young. to Refrain

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A VOICE CRIES OUT

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