

Oh, When the Saints Medley

Spiritual
Arranged by Maureen Briare

Capo 1: (D) Eb (G) Ab (A) Bb (D) Eb

① Oh, when the saints go march-in' in; Oh, when the

② This train is bound for glo - ry, this train.

③ (Swing) low, sweet char - i - ot,

Keyboard

saints go march - in' in; Oh, Lord, I want to be in that

This train is bound for glo - ry, this train. — This train is bound for glo-ry,

com - in' for to car - ry me home. Swing low, sweet

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(G/B) A \flat /C (E \flat 7/B \flat) F \flat 7/C \flat (D/A) E \flat /B \flat (A7) B \flat 7

num - ber, when the saints go march - in'

won't take noth - in' but the righ - teous and the ho - ly. This train is bound for glo - ry,

char - i - ot, com - in' for to car - ry me

1 (D) E \flat	to ②	As needed (D) E \flat	Final (D) E \flat	All
in. in. Oh, when the in. Swing				
2	to ③	As needed	Final	All
this train. Swing this train. this train. Swing				
3	Begin quodlibet*	As needed	Final	All
home. Swing home. Swing home. Swing				
1-3		As needed	Final	

*Quodlibet: Two or more pre-existing melodies that are sung simultaneously.

a cappella

low, sweet char - i - ot, com - in' for to car - ry me

home. Swing low, sweet char - i - ot,

rit. com - in' for to car - ry me home. *div.*

(G) Ab (Gm) Abm (D) Eb

Composer Notes

This medley of familiar spirituals is set to a Dixieland-style rhythm. It offers a flexible arrangement and can be executed in different ways, depending on the music resources available. Liturgically, this piece is very fitting for All Saints Day (November 1), or for other prayer services celebrating the lives of saints. In a concert setting, this piece brings together instrumentalists and choir in rousing song.

The medley is sung through once. Then, depending on the size/seating of the church and the number of choristers, the medley can be divided into two or three parts.

With smaller choirs: Initially designate two sections within the choir and congregation. I recommend singing the medley through once; then one section starts “Oh, When the Saints” and the other section sings “This Train.” These two spirituals can be sung simultaneously a few times, then brought to a close by everyone singing together “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” in a slower, more expressive tempo.

With larger choirs: Consider singing the three spirituals simultaneously. Then, once again bring the medley to closure with an expressive rendition of “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot.” The brass arrangement will work as a trio, or even simply as a solo trumpet (or clarinet), trombone, or a combination of these. To really infuse a Dixieland feel, I’ve also incorporated banjo/bass/guitar/tambourine.

—Maureen Briare

Preview

Oh, When the Saints Medley

TRUMPET I & II in B \flat

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①

Oh, when the saints...

1st time: no repeat
Last time: to Final Ending

②

This train is...

1st time: no repeat
Last time: to Final Ending

③

Swing low,...

1st time: Begin quodlibet*
Last time: to Final Ending

*Quodlibet: Two or more pre-existing melodies that are sung simultaneously.

Final

6 *rit.* // ...home.

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TROMBONE

①

Oh, when the saints...

1st time: no repeat
Last time: to Final Ending

②

This train is...

1st time: no repeat
Last time: to Final Ending

③

Swing low,...

1st time: Begin quodlibet*
Last time: to Final Ending

Final

6 *rit.* // ...home.

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*Quodlibet: Two or more pre-existing melodies that are sung simultaneously.

Assembly Edition

OH, WHEN THE SAINTS MEDLEY

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Oh, when the saints go march-in' in;
Oh, when the saints go march-in' in; Oh, Lord, I want to
be in that num-ber, when the saints go march-in' in.
This train is bound for glo-ry, this train. This train is
bound for glo-ry, this train. This train is bound for glo-ry,
won't take noth-in' but the righ-teous and the ho-ly.
This train is bound for glo-ry, this train.
Swing low, sweet char-i-ot, com-in' for to
car-ry me home. Swing low, sweet char-i-
ot, com-in' for to car-ry me home.

①
Final: All sing ③ (Swing Low)
1: No repeat

②
Final: All sing ③ (Swing Low)
1: No repeat

③
Final: All sing ③ (Swing Low)
1: Begin quodlibet*

*Quodlibet: Two or more pre-existing melodies that are sung simultaneously.

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