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Mater Dolorosa/At the Cross Her Station Keeping
SATB Choir, Descant, Keyboard, Guitar,
Solo Instrument I & II in C, Timpani, Assembly

Ricky Manalo, CSP



CHORAL SERIES

**Mater Dolorosa/
At the Cross Her Station Keeping**

Ricky Manalo, CSP

Preview

Commissioned for the Centennial of the National Sanctuary
of Our Sorrowful Mother — The Grotto, Portland, Oregon

Mater Dolorosa/ At the Cross Her Station Keeping

Stabat Mater dolorosa
Jacopone da Todi, 1230–1306
Translated by Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.
Refrain, Ricky Manalo, CSP

Ricky Manalo, CSP

INTRO *Tender and hopeful* (♩ = ca. 116)

G D/G C/G D7 Em7

Keyboard *p*

VERSES
mp

1. At the cross her sta - tion
2. Through her heart, his sor - row
3. Oh, how sad and sore ___ dis -
4. For the sins of his ___ own
5. Let me share with thee ___ his
6. Is there one who would ___ not
7. By the cross with thee ___ to

C6 D G D/G C/G

mp

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1. keep - ing, Stood the mourn - ful Moth - er weep - ing,
 2. shar - ing, All his bit - ter an - guish bear - ing,
 3. tressed, Was that Moth - er high - ly blest
 4. na - tion Saw him hang in des - o - la - tion
 5. pain, Who for all my sins was slain,
 6. weep, Whelmed in mis - er - ies so deep,
 7. stay; There with thee to weep and pray,

Gadd9 Em D/F# Am D

1. Close to Je - sus to the last.
 2. Now at length the sword has passed.
 3. Of the sole be - got - ten One.
 4. Till his spir - it forth he sent.
 5. Who for me in tor - ment died.
 6. Christ's dear Moth - er to be - hold?
 7. All I ask of thee to give.

Em Bm C A sus4 A

Soprano
 Alto
 Tenor
 Bass

1-7. Ma - ter Do - lo - ro - sa!

1, 3, 5 2, 4, 6, 7

Am7 G/B C D G 1, 3, 5 D 2, 4, 6, 7

cresc.

REFRAIN

mf
Descant

Ma - ter Do - lo - ro - sa! Moth - er of

mf

Ma - ter Do - lo - ro - sa! Moth - er of Sor - rows,

mf

C D B Em C G/B

Hope. Ma - ter Do - lo - ro - sa!

Moth - er of Hope. Ma - ter Do - lo - ro - sa!

Am7 D Am7 D/F# Bm Em

1-3 D.S.

Lead us to Christ, our Light.

1-3 D.S.

Lead us to Christ, our Light.

Am7 G/B C6 D7 1-3 G D/G C/G D7sus4 D.S.

dim.



Final *poco rit.*

Light. Lead us to Christ, our Light.

Final *poco rit.*

Light. Lead us to Christ, our Light.

Final *poco rit.*

Em Em/D Am7 G/B C6 D7 G



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Mater Dolorosa/ At the Cross Her Station Keeping

(Guitar/Vocal)

Stabat Mater dolorosa

Jacopone da Todi, 1230–1306

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Refrain, Ricky Manalo, CSP

Ricky Manalo, CSP

INTRO *Tender and hopeful* (♩ = ca. 116)

G D/G C/G D7 Em7 C6

(Kbd)

VERSE

D G mp D/G C/G

1. At the cross her sta - tion
2. Through her heart, his sor - row
3. Oh, how sad and sore — dis -
4. For the sins of his — own
5. Let me share with thee — his
6. Is there one who would — not
7. By the cross with thee — to

Gadd9 Em D/F# Am D

1. keep - ing, Stood the mourn - ful Moth - er weep - ing,
2. shar - ing, All his bit - ter an - guish bear - ing,
3. tressed, Was that Moth - er high - ly blest
4. na - tion Saw him hang in des - o - la - tion
5. pain, Who for all my sins — was slain,
6. weep, Whelmed in mis - er - ies — so deep,
7. stay, There with thee to weep — and pray,

Em Bm C A sus4 A

1. Close to Je - sus to — the last. —
2. Now at length the sword — has passed. —
3. Of the sole be - got - ten One. —
4. Till his spir - it forth — he sent. —
5. Who for me in tor - ment died. —
6. Christ's dear Moth - er to — be - hold? —
7. All I ask of thee — to give. —

Am7 G/B C D G

1, 3, 5
D

2, 4, 6, 7

1-7. Ma - ter Do - lo - ro - sa!

REFRAIN

C D B Em C G/B

mf

Ma - ter Do - lo - ro - sa! Moth - er of Sor - rows,

Am7 D Am7 D/F# Bm Em

Moth - er of Hope. Ma - ter Do - lo - ro - sa!

Am7 G/B C6 D7

1-3
G D/G C/G D7sus4 *D.S.*

Lead us to Christ, — our Light.

Final
Em Em/D Am7 *poco rit.* G/B C6 D7 G

Light. Lead us to Christ, — our Light. _____

Mater Dolorosa/ At the Cross Her Station Keeping

SOLO INSTRUMENT I & II in C

Ricky Manalo, CSP

INTRO *Tender and hopeful* (♩ = ca. 116)

I
II

p

VERSES 1-7

mp

mp

2

2

1, 3, 5

2, 4, 6, 7

REFRAIN

mf

mf

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*Omit these notes on D.S.

Mater Dolorosa/ At the Cross Her Station Keeping

TIMPANI

Ricky Manalo, CSP

INTRO *Tender and hopeful* (♩ = ca. 116)

§ VERSES 1-7

REFRAIN

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Composer Notes

“Mater Dolorosa/At the Cross Her Station Keeping” is based on a section of the *Stabat Mater*, a medieval Latin hymn attributed to the 13th century Franciscan friar Jacopone da Todi, reflecting on the sorrow of the Virgin Mary as she stands at the foot of the cross where Jesus is crucified.

This setting was commissioned by the National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother (commonly known as “The Grotto”) in Portland, Oregon, in celebration of their centennial on September 15, 2024. In my version, I have added a refrain to the traditional verses with two specific intentions:

- The refrain text more explicitly emphasizes a “theology of hope” following each verse. While the original verses reflect Mary’s sorrow at the foot of the cross, they may risk historicizing her experience in a way that overlooks the promise of the resurrection. Thus, by incorporating a refrain that intentionally recalls the (already) accomplished paschal mystery, worshippers are reminded of the hope embedded in the resurrection.
- The addition of a refrain transforms the traditional strophic structure into a verses-and-refrain format, which may be particularly effective for rituals involving movement, such as processions during the Stations of the Cross, where worshippers are encouraged to “look up” at key moments.

Liturgical and Devotional Use:

- Stations of the Cross: The hymn is frequently sung during the Stations of the Cross, particularly at the 12th station, which commemorates Jesus’s crucifixion and death.
- Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows (September 15): On this feast day, the hymn is used to honor the Seven Sorrows of Mary, highlighting her deep compassion and steadfast presence during Christ’s Passion. “Mater Dolorosa/At the Cross Her Station Keeping” was composed with this devotion in mind, but it may also be adapted to include all 15 verses.
- Lenten Observances: This hymn is also appropriate during Lent, especially in devotional services and processions focused on the Passion of Christ.

—Ricky Manalo, CSP

Assembly Edition

MATER DOLOROSA/AT THE CROSS HER STATION KEEPING

Ricky Manalo, CSP

Verses



1. At the cross her sta - tion keep - ing,
2. Through her heart, his sor - row shar - ing,
3. Oh, how sad and sore dis - tressed,
4. For the sins of his own na - tion
5. Let me share with thee his pain,
6. Is there one who would not weep,
7. By the cross with thee to stay;



1. Stood the mourn - ful Moth - er weep - ing,
2. All his bit - ter an - guish bear - ing,
3. Was that Moth - er high - ly blest
4. Saw him hang in des - o - la - tion
5. Who for all my sins was slain,
6. Whelmed in mis - er - ies so deep,
7. There with thee to weep and pray,



1. Close to Je - sus to the last.
2. Now at length the sword has passed.
3. Of the sole be - got - ten One.
4. Till his spir - it forth he sent.
5. Who for me in tor - ment died.
6. Christ's dear Moth - er to be - hold?
7. All I ask of thee to give.



1-7. *Ma - ter Do - lo - ro - sa!*



Ma - ter Do - lo - ro - sa! Moth - er of Sor - rows,



Moth - er of Hope. *Ma - ter Do - lo - ro - sa!*



Lead us to Christ, our Light.

Verses text: *Stabat Mater dolorosa*; Jacopone da Todi, 1230–1306; English tr. by Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.
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