

psalm 23. the lord is my shepherd, i shall not want. in verdant pastures he gives me repose. beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. he guides me in right paths for his name's sake. even though i walk in the dark valley i fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and staff that give me courage. you spread a table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. surely goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and i shall dwell in the house of the lord for years to come. psalm 24. the lord's is the earth and its fullness; the world and all who dwell in it. for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. who can ascend the mountain of the lord? or who may stand in his holy place? those whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desire not what is vain, nor swear deceitfully to their neighbour. they shall receive blessings from the lord, a reward from god their saviour. such is the race that seek the

PSALM 31: INTO YOUR HANDS

For cantor, assembly,
SATB choir, oboe, and
organ

EPHREM FEELEY

PSALM 31: INTO YOUR HANDS

Ephrem Feeley

Plaintively (♩ = 70)

Oboe

mp

Descant:

Fa - ther, Fa-ther, in - to your hands — I com - mend my spi-rit.

Choir/
Assembly:

Fa - ther, Fa - ther, in-to your hands I com - mend my spi-rit.

Organ

for rehearsal only

The musical score is arranged in four systems. The first system is for the Oboe, starting with a tempo marking of 'Plaintively (♩ = 70)' and a dynamic of 'mp'. The second system is a 'Descant' for the Oboe. The third system is for the 'Choir/Assembly', with lyrics: 'Fa - ther, Fa-ther, in - to your hands — I com - mend my spi-rit.' The fourth system is for the 'Organ', with a note that it is 'for rehearsal only'. The organ part consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) and provides harmonic support for the vocal parts. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Composer's Notes:

This very simple setting of Psalm 31 for Good Friday is best sung unaccompanied, capturing the starkness of the day. The oboe part and descant should only be introduced once the refrain is well-established by the assembly. The choral parts underneath the verses provide harmonic support to the cantor, as well as giving a hint of blues chords, which, while not often heard in liturgical music, seem to be fitting for the text.

VERSES:

5

Ob.

5

Cantor:

Choir:

Ah.

Ah.

5

Org.

1. In you, O Lord, I take refuge.
Let me never be put to shame.
In your justice, set me free.
It is you who will redeem me, Lord.

2. In the face all my foes
I am a reproach,
An object of scorn to my neighbours,
And of fear to my friends.

3. Those who see me in the street
Run far away from me.
I am like a dead man, forgotten in men's hearts,
Like a thing thrown away.

4. But as for me, I trust in you, O Lord.
I say, "You are my God."
My life is in your hands, deliver me
From the hands of those who hate me.

5. Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your love.
Be strong, let your heart take courage,
All who hope in the Lord.