

Why Does My Savior Weep? is an anthem for Lent and Holy Week. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 31, Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12; Luke 22:39 - 23:-49, John 18:1 - 19:42, and Hebrews 4:14-16. One basic homiletical theme is the suffering of Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man, whose willing sacrifice offers salvation for humanity.

This dramatic Passion anthem is best served by a lyric legato, sensitive phrasing, and a uniform ensemble tone without excessive vibrato. In rehearsal, vocalize the singers on the minor descending pattern found in m. 5-6, singing various syllables (noo, nah, nee) until proper focus and intonation are achieved. To improve ensemble precision, sing the entire piece on "noo," articulating a constant eighth note pulse in tempo with the underlying accompaniment. Internalize this pulse before adding the text.

Patrick M. Liebergen is Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin (Stout) and Director of the Chancel Choir at United Methodist Church, Menomonie, Wisconsin. With music degrees from St. Norbert College in DePere, Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin (Madison), and the University of Colorado (Boulder), Dr. Liebergen frequently appears throughout the country as an adjudicator and clinician. His choral editions, arrangements and original works are widely published. Dr. Liebergen was the 1988 winner of the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association Composition Competition and the 1990 Winner of the Anthem Contest sponsored by the Twin Cities Church Musicians Association.

WHY DOES MY SAVIOR WEEP?

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied*

Words and Music by
PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

Flowing (♩ = ca. 84)

ACCOMP.

mp

The piano accompaniment for the first system consists of two staves. The right hand plays a flowing eighth-note melody in the treble clef, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of quarter notes in the bass clef. The key signature is B-flat major and the time signature is 4/4.

4 SOPRANO & ALTO Unison (5) *mp*

Why does my Sav - ior weep?

The second system features a vocal line for Soprano and Alto in unison, starting at measure 4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note melody and quarter-note bass line. The lyrics are "Why does my Sav - ior weep?".

7

Why does my Sav - ior shed His tears? A - lone in the gar - den He

The third system continues the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics are "Why does my Sav - ior shed His tears? A - lone in the gar - den He".

10

knels and prays. Why does my Sav - ior weep?

The fourth system concludes the piece. The lyrics are "knels and prays. Why does my Sav - ior weep?". The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord in the right hand and a sustained note in the left hand.

*Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 5890.

13

Musical notation for measures 13-15. The vocal line begins with a whole rest. The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass clef with chords and moving lines.

16

unis.

S. (*mp*)

A.

Why do they crown Him king?

Why do they mock and

mp unis.

B.

Why do they crown Him king?

Why do they

Musical notation for measures 16-18. The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support.

19

scourge my Lord? His blood is poured from the crown of thorns.

scourge my Lord?

Musical notation for measures 19-21. The vocal line concludes the phrase. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines.

22 *unis.* *mf*

Why do they crown Him king?

unis. *mf*

To the

mf

25 *mf* *cresc.*

His fi - nal breath shall

cresc.

hill far a - way He car - ries the cross,

cresc.

28 *f* *cresc.* *ff*

be my loss; the ham - mer rings out, the nails pierce Him through;

f *cresc.* *ff*

f *cresc.* *ff*

f *cresc.* *ff*

31

mf unis.

mp

He dies for me and you.

mf unis.

mp

34

rit.

36 **Tempo I**

mp unis.

Why does my Sav - ior

mp unis.

Tempo I

ff

rit.

mp

37

weep?

Why does my Sav - ior shed His tears? A -

40 *mf* *mp* *rit.* *mp unis.*

lone in the gar - den He kneels and prays; a -

mf *mp* *unis.*

a - lone in the gar - den,

44 *dim.* *p*

lone in the gar - den, all a - lone, a lone.

dim. *p*

all a - lone, a - lone.

dim. *p*

48 *molto rit.*

molto rit. *dim.* *pp*

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