EASTER TRILOGY

Crucifixion Resurrection Ascension

By Vanessa McClintock

For SATB and piano (organ ad lib)

Music by Vanessa McClintock
Text by Vanessa McClintock, based
upon and quoted from the
Old and New Testaments of
the Holy Bible, King James Version

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Easter Trilogy is a work based on three major components in the Atonement of Jesus Christ, beginning with His crucifixion, followed by His resurrection, and (in this work) concluding with His ascension.

Scriptural references primarily are taken from the book of Mark, in the New Testament. In all, the scriptures are: Isaiah 53:5, 7, 12, Mark 15:34, Mark 15:37-39, Mark 16:11, Matt. 28:2-6, and Acts 1:7-11.

The initial intent was to compose a choral work that a relatively competent small church choir could perform, with some challenges musically, while the complex part was placed with the piano accompaniment. There are some interesting harmonies that might challenge an amateur choir, but by no means are they insurmountable. The piano part contributes to a bigger sound and a greater sense of depth. As such, a very talented pianist is required to make it work. *Easter Trilogy* is designed to fit within a typical church service timeframe and to be appropriate for any church setting, both musically and by content.

In addition to the piano and SATB choir, a narrator plays a key role in setting up the scenario for each part and for bringing the work to a close.

The work was composed in the spring of 1981 and first performed for Easter service that year. It since has found performances in other church services and choral concerts. In 2020 the composer began to enter into digital computer notation software her collected works, whereas before all of her work had been done by hand. During that process of conversion, the composer revised some portions of some works, and some not at all. Most of the revisions are found in her earlier works, but by no means all. In some cases, the composer added completely new sections—or movements—to bring the earlier works to fulfillment.

Depending on the proficiency of the choir, the conductor has the option to modify three areas, *Resurrection*: keep AT in unison in bars 41-47; cut ATB parts in bars 48 to 54; and *Crucifixion*: cut AB parts in bars 58 to 76. These harmonies are enhancements to the original composition, and added for interest if the choir is capable.

In the case of *Easter Trilogy*, the composer created a completely separate work based in small part on the *Resurrection* movement of this work. It can be used as an addendum or supplement to *Easter Trilogy*, or as a stand-alone work at the discretion of the music director, and performed separately before or after the *Easter Trilogy*, on either half of the program, or on another concert entirely. The new work is *Mary*, at the *Tomb*, and is for soprano, three tenors, and piano.

Approximate performance times:

Crucifixion 6'40" Resurrection 3'38" Ascension 4'44"

Vanessa McClintock September, 2020

EASTER TRILOGY Complete Texts

By Vanessa McClintock

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EASTER TRILOGY

Crucifixion

NARRATOR:

Before things are, they were. It was known before: what things are, may become.

The earth would sin, and be purged.

Man would continue to sin, but a Chosen one would make atonement for our sins by sacrificing Himself; death would be defeated and the way made open that we may return to our Heavenly Father.

These things were not to be done without pain nor suffering, but with joy and agony.

"... he was wounded for our transgressions..." "...yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter..." "...he hath poured out his soul unto death: ...he bare the sin of any, and made intercession for the transgressors." (Isaiah 53:5, 7, 12)

CHORUS:

All ye who stand in good faith, Christ Jesus remember this day. O Blessed Saviour, For him let not the Sacrifice be in vain.

When Christ prayed at Gethsemane, His anguish was so great, He sweated blood from ev'ry pore that mankind might be saved.

(Crucifixion continued)

His soul bore deep afflictions,
Yea even unto death;
"This cup pass on but
Thy will be done,"
He prayed while even He wept,
He prayed while others slept.

Awake the hour is come,
(From twelve there had fallen one.)
All prophecy to fulfill,
All glory to the Father
and the Son.

Betrayed, beloved Christ was tried and told that He would die. The mob cried out, "Don't set Him free, 'tis He you will crucify."

Upon the cross at Golgotha,
While suffering in the flesh,
There were two more on the
right and the left,
Two more to crucify,
Two more were put to death.

Such pain grief and sorrow,
Mere man shall never know.
On the cross that He wore with
blood,
Was sacrifice made that man might
have eternal life.

"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"

"My God, my God, why hast

Thou forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34)

NARRATOR:

"And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

"And the veil of the temple was rent in twain...

"And when the centurion... saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God." (Mark 15:37-39)

EASTER TRILOGY

Resurrection

NARRATOR:

Not without pain and suffering had Mary Magdalene and the other women "bought sweet spices, that they might" go and anoint Him whom they loved, He who loves us all, even before we were. (Mark 16:11)

"And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun." (Mark 16:2)

"And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came, and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

"His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

"And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

"He is not here: for he is arisen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." (Matt. 28:2-6)

[Music begins after narration]

CHORUS:

Fear ye not thou women, fear not; He's not here He's risen, risen this day.

He's not here He's risen, risen; Christ out Lord is risen, risen this day.

(Resurrection continued)

Go your way tell Peter

that He

Goeth before ye into

Galilee.

He is not here He is risen,

risen;

Christ our Lord is risen,

risen this day.

Preach the gospel in my

name;

Teach the Word to all men

and all nations.

Alleluia,

alle-,

Alleluia,

alleluia

Christ our Lord is risen,

risen;

Alleluia,

alleluia!

EASTER TRILOGY

Ascension

NARRATOR:

And Jesus said unto his disciples,

"It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

"Which also said,

(PIANO)

"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:7-11)

CHORUS:

Christ our Lord is risen, risen; Jesus Chris is risen unto to God!

Easter Trilogy

Crucifixion

Vanessa McClintock

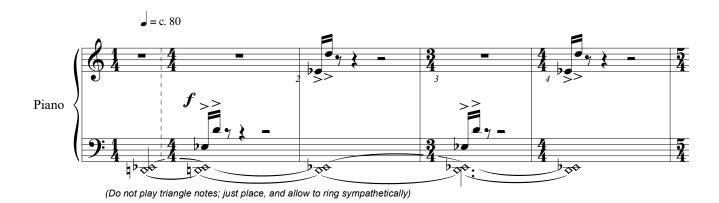
NARRATOR:

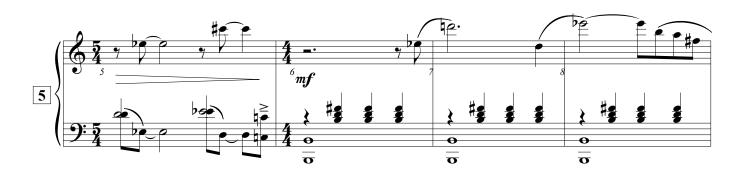
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