

IAN HUBBARD

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

ACCORDING TO LUKE 8 verses 4 - 15

TOLD THROUGH PROSE, MUSIC AND MIME

REQUIREMENTS

WORDS

THE NARRATOR AND JESUS

MUSIC (Minimum)

3 SOPRANOS

2 ALTOS

2 TENORS

2 BASSES

PIANIST

ORGANIST & CHOIR GOSPEL RESPONSE - OPTIONAL

MIME

8 - 10 PERSONS

SITUATION

This Gospel has been arranged for presentation by church members during public worship. In a traditional church setting, the Parable is best told where nave and chancel intersect. The choir should be in nearby stalls or chairs and the readers at the lectern and pulpit. These instructions are given as a guide. Those using this material should feel free to adapt where necessary, taking into account local circumstances. The final 'Halleluia' Gospel Response is optional and can be performed on other occasions in its own right. A brass arrangement is available from Banks Music if required.

SETTING THE SCENE

Those miming take up their positions as per diagram. The choreographer can use discretion as to which actors mime sections 5, 6 and 7. As actors complete a section they should sit down in a still position, ready for the next.



THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

NARRATOR

The Holy Gospel is written in the eighth chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke, reading from the fourth verse.

ALL

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

NARRATOR

Jesus said in a parable:

JESUS

"A sower went out to sow his seed, and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it."

MUSIC/MIME SEQUENCE 1

(On piano introduction the first of three birds stands up, sideways to the congregation, and pecks in rhythm as per music (See diagram). Arms are used to portray the beak and tail. Bird two stands up six beats before his/her pecking process begins, likewise bird three. All sit down together after music sequence ends. Choir sing the appropriate note to BUB, BUB, BUB etc. A staccato sound adds to the effect.)



♩ = 104

S 1

Bub, Bub, Bub, continued

S 2

S 3

Piano

S 1

S 2

S 3

Pno.

Bub, Bub, Bub, continued

S 1

S 2

S 3

Pno.

Bub, Bub, Bub, Bub continued

JESUS

"And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture."

MUSIC/MIME SEQUENCE 2

(Piano gives bass note as a four beat introduction. Choir then sing the eight part simple chord sequence (B Bom), taking a breath where necessary, but never altogether, in order to produce a continuous sound. A solitary person mimes the growing of the seed from a curled ball position in time with the music. He/she slowly unbends the legs then uncurls the body, the arms and head, but fails to reach maturity, withering as the discords begin (See diagram). It is important that hands and fingers are kept curled until the final unsuccessful thrust for maturity - the congregation should just see a glimpse of them beginning to open.)

STAGE

1



2



3



4



5



$\text{♩} = 69$

Score for voices and piano, 4/4 time, $\text{♩} = 69$.

Vocal parts: S1, S2, A1, A2, T1, T2, B1, B2.

Piano part: Piano.

Lyrics: B, Bom.

Dynamic markings: *mf*.

The score consists of nine staves. The vocal staves (S1, S2, A1, A2, T1, T2, B1, B2) are in 4/4 time. The piano part is also in 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = 69$. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics "B" and "Bom." are written below the vocal staves. The dynamic marking *mf* is used throughout the score.