

RECITATIVE — COMFORT YE, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE AIR — EV'RY VALLEY SHALL BE EXALTED

From the "Messiah" (1741)

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Larghetto e piano (♩ = 72)

Recit

PIANO

The first system of piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of chords and a simple melodic line, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of chords. The tempo is marked 'Larghetto e piano' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

TENOR

Com-fort ye,

com

The second system features a tenor vocal line and piano accompaniment. The tenor part begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics 'Com-fort ye, com'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a melodic line. Dynamics include *fp* (fortissimo piano) and *p* (piano).

ad lib.

fort. ye — my peo-ple,

Com - fort ye,

The third system continues the tenor vocal line and piano accompaniment. The tenor part has the lyrics 'fort. ye — my peo-ple, Com - fort ye,'. The piano accompaniment features a more active melodic line in the right hand. The tempo is marked *ad lib.* (ad libitum).

a tempo

com - fort ye my peo-ple,

The fourth system concludes the tenor vocal line and piano accompaniment. The tenor part has the lyrics 'com - fort ye my peo-ple,'. The piano accompaniment features a steady accompaniment of chords. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *fp L.H.* (fortissimo piano left hand).

saith your God, saith your God;

p *fp* *fp*

Speak ye com-fort-a-bly to Je - ru - sa-lem, speak ye

com - fort-a-bly to Je - ru - sa lem, and cry un-to her, that her

fp

NB.
war - - fare, her war - - fare is ac - complish'd, that her i -

p

NB. This F is in Handel's Ms. - Ed.

ni - qui - ty is par - don'd. that her i - ni - qui - ty is par -

don'd.

The voice of him that cri - eth in the wil - der - ness, "Pre -

pare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the des - ert a

Andante (♩ = .50)

Air

high-way for our God!"

f

c. 8^{ve} ad lib.

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the piece. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "high-way for our God!". The piano accompaniment starts with a series of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The tempo is marked "Andante" with a quarter note equal to 0.50. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

tr *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr*

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 3 through 6. The piano accompaniment features a series of trills in the right hand, marked with "tr". The dynamics range from piano (*p*) to forte (*f*).

f *p* *f*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7 through 9. The piano accompaniment continues with complex chordal textures and trills. Dynamics include forte (*f*), piano (*p*), and forte (*f*).

Ev - 'ry val - ley,

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 10 through 12. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "Ev - 'ry val - ley,". The piano accompaniment features a trill in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic is marked forte (*f*).

ev - 'ry val - ley. shall be ex - alt - ed,

p

shall be ex - alt

ed,

shall be ex -

f

alt - - - ed, shall be ex - alt - - -

p

8ve ad lib.

- - ed, and ev - 'ry moun - tain and hill - - - made

f

p

low, The crook - ed - -

straight, and the rough pla - ces plain,

the crook - ed

straight, the crook - ed straight, — and rough pla - ces

plain,

and the rough pla-ces plain.

p

This system contains the first system of music. The vocal line (top staff) begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics "and the rough pla-ces plain." are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment (bottom two staves) features a complex texture with many beamed sixteenth notes in the right hand and a more rhythmic bass line in the left hand. A piano dynamic marking (*p*) is placed below the piano part.

Ev - 'ry val - ley,

f *p*

This system contains the second system of music. The vocal line (top staff) has a treble clef and the lyrics "Ev - 'ry val - ley,". The piano accompaniment (bottom two staves) continues with a similar texture. A forte dynamic marking (*f*) is placed below the piano part in the first measure, and a piano dynamic marking (*p*) is placed below the piano part in the third measure.

ev - 'ry val - ley ——— shall be ex - alt - -

f *p*

This system contains the third system of music. The vocal line (top staff) has a treble clef and the lyrics "ev - 'ry val - ley ——— shall be ex - alt - -". The piano accompaniment (bottom two staves) continues with a similar texture. A forte dynamic marking (*f*) is placed below the piano part in the first measure, and a piano dynamic marking (*p*) is placed below the piano part in the second measure.

This system contains the fourth system of music. The vocal line (top staff) continues with a treble clef. The piano accompaniment (bottom two staves) continues with a similar texture.

ed,

Ev - 'ry val - ley,

p *f*

senza 8^{ve}

ev - 'ry val - ley — shall be ex - alt -

p

8^{ve} ad lib.

ed, and ev - 'ry moun - tain and

hill made low, the crook - ed - straight,

the crook - ed straight, the crook - ed straight, and the

rough pla-ces plain, and the rough pla-ces

plain, and the rough pla-ces plain,

(ad lib.)

the crook - ed straight, and the rough

colla voce

Tempo I

pla - - ces plain.

f

c. 8^{ve} ad lib.

tr tr tr tr tr

p

f p f