

ACCOMPANIED SCRIPTURE

Exodus Reading

For the Great Vigil

RORY COONEY

EXODUS READING FOR THE GREAT VIGIL

Exodus 14:15-15:1

Setting by Rory Cooney

Cantor

A reading from the book of Ex - o - dus.

Keyboard

D Cm/D A/D Dm

A

The Lord said to Moses: "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward.

Am⁷ Bb/A

And you, lift up your staff, and with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two!

C/A D/A C/A D

A choral edition (with a congregation part) is available separately from the publisher, G-4117C.

An instrumental part for flute is available separately from the publisher, G-4117INST.

NOTES: This is another piece I wrote with my son Joel in mind. When he and other children were in the catechumenate at St. Jerome in Phoenix, it brought home to me that we should be proclaiming the stories of our faith in a style dynamic enough to engage adults and children through the long, late vigil. Furthermore, I wanted to write this setting so that no "worship aid" was necessary, i.e., since the liturgy of the word at the vigil is done (by us) in the dark, it needs to be immediate. Everything that the assembly sings is sung first by the cantor. That's why there are repeat bars around every phrase.

PERFORMANCES NOTES: The verses of the reading are done freely, in *recitative* style. The hand-clapping before each refrain sets up the "klezmer" tempo, like "Hava Nagilah." The final refrain develops into the longer response, i.e., with the "horse and chariot" developing into "fear and loneliness, death and emptiness," etc. After the last verse of the reading itself, we usually bring the music to a dead stop, and start clapping at a much slower tempo, *accelerando* through the refrains and responses. There is a grand *ritard* at the very end of the piece.

One fun way of performing this is to have an oboist or soprano sax player play some mid-eastern scales before the cantor begins each time, just improvising on a mixolydian scale to give the song another dimension of relationship to Isreal. The sax player on the recording, Mark Mellis, has actually been the cantor for us on this song in the past, and he brings his sax right up to the ambo with him. It's great fun.

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The Israelites may pass through it on dry land, but I will make the Egyptians so obstinate

E♭/A D/A E♭maj7/A

that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army,

Dm7/A Dm7/A

his chariots and charioteers. The E - gyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I receive

B♭/A B♭/A

glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and char - i - ot - eers!"

A A

Refrain I

clap

♩=108-110

Cantor, All repeat

Cantor, All repeat

Sing the song of free - dom! God has won the vic - t'ry.

Dm Gm E A Dm Gm E A

mf-f

coll' 8va (ad lib.)

Cantor, All repeat

To Sections B-D

Horse and char - i - ot are cast in - to the sea.

D/F# D⁷ E^b Cm⁶ A/C# A⁷ Dm

B

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's camp, now moved and went around behind them.

Am⁷ B^b/A

The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place be - hind them.

C/A D

It came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel: but the cloud now became dark,

E $\flat$ /A *Dm⁷/A*

To Refrain I

and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long.

B $\flat$ /A *A*

C

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD swept the sea with a strong

Am⁷ *B $\flat$ /A* *C/A*

east wind throughout the night, and so turned it in - to dry land.

D/A *C/A* *D/A*

When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land,

E♭/A *Dm⁷/A*

with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

B♭/A *A*

To Refrain I

The E - gyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them,

D *Am⁷* *B♭/A*

right into the midst of the sea. In the night watch just before dawn,

C/A *D/A* *Am⁷*

the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud up - on the Egyptian force, a glance that

B $\flat$ /A D/A

threw it in - to a pan - ic. He so clogged the chariot wheels that they could hardly drive:

D/A E $\flat$ maj⁷/A

with that, the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel: be - cause the LORD was fighting

Dm⁷/A B $\flat$ /A

for them a - gainst the E - gyp - tians.

Segue

A

Refrain II

*Cantor, All repeat**Cantor, All repeat*

Sing the song of free - dom! God has won the vic - t'ry.

Dm Gm E A Dm Gm E A

*Cantor, All repeat**To Sections E-G*

Horse and char - i - ot are cast in - to the sea.

D/F# D7 Eb Cm6 A/C# A7 Dm

E

Then the LORD said to Moses: "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the

Am7 Bb/A

water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and char - i - ot - eers!"

C/A D/A

So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth.

$E\flat\text{maj}^7/A$ Dm^7/A

To Refrain II

The E - gyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the LORD hurled them in - to its midst!

$B\flat/A$ A

F

As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and charioteers of Pharaoh's whole army which had

$A\text{m}^7$ $B\flat/A$

followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them es - caped.

C/A D/A C/A D/A

But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall

$E\flat\text{maj}^7/A$ Dm^7/A

to their right and to their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of

$B\flat/A$ $B\flat/A$

the Egyptians!

A A

To Refrain II

When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore, and beheld the great power that the

$A\text{m}^7$ $B\flat/A$ C/A

LORD had shown against the E - gyp - tians, they feared the LORD and believed in him,

D/A E♭maj⁷/A

and in his servant Mo - ses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

Dm⁷/A B♭/A A

Segue //

H *Slowly* ♩=72-76 *Cantor, All repeat* *accel.* *Cantor, All repeat*

Sing the song of free - dom! God has won the vic - t'ry.

Dm Gm E A Dm Gm E A

Slowly *accel.*

accel. *Cantor, All repeat*

Horse and char - i - ot are cast in - to the sea.

D/F# D⁷ E♭ Cm⁶ A/C# A⁷ Dm

accel.

a tempo
Cantor, All repeat

Cantor, All repeat

Sing the song of free - dom! God has won the vic - t'ry.

a tempo

Dm Gm E A Dm Gm E A

Cantor, All repeat

Horse and char - i - ot are cast in - to the sea.

D/F# D7 Eb Cm⁶ A/C# A⁷ Dm

Final Refrain

Cantor, All repeat

Cantor, All repeat

1. Horse and char - i - ot, fear and lone - li - ness,
2. Horse and char - i - ot, hate and prej - u - dice,

D D⁷ Gm C F

Cantor, All repeat

Cantor, All repeat

D.S.

( last time)

death and emp - ti - ness; Horse and char - i - ot are cast in - to the sea.
chains and slav - er - y;

A A⁷ Dm D/F# D⁷ Eb Cm⁶ A/C# A⁷ ( last time)

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