

Advent Promise is a beautiful setting of Advent prophecies found in the book of Isaiah. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 80: 1-7 & 17-19, Isaiah 7: 10-16 and 9: 6-7, Matthew 1: 18-25, and Romans 1: 1-7. One basic homiletical theme is the promise of salvation through God's incarnation in Jesus Christ.

In rehearsal, strive for very legato phrasing, a strong sense of the inner (eighth-note) pulse, and a well-focused choral tone. Rehearse mm. 4-28 on the neutral syllable "noe" singing a steady stream of eighth notes. Allow the phrase contours and energy of the eighth notes to shape the music dynamically and to encourage ensemble precision. For example, the ensemble breath in m. 12 should fall precisely on the second half of beat three. Thus, as the choir sings the eighth note pulse in that measure, the sixth pulse should be SILENT, except for the sound of inhalation! To promote better balance, rehearse passages such as mm. 20-23 unaccompanied until the parts are blended and the harmonies well-tuned.

Ruth Elaine Schram lives in Birmingham, Alabama, where she is a full-time composer and arranger. She is an ASCAP Special Awards recipient, with over two hundred published sacred works. In addition to her printed choral music, she has written numerous songs for popular children's albums and video tapes.

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ADVENT PROMISE

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied, with optional flute*

Words adapted from Isaiah 7: 14 and 9: 6-7
by RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

Music by
RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

Expressively (♩ = ca. 88)

FLUTE
(optional)

ACCOMP.

* Flute part may be found on page 12.
** Optional - keyboard tacet m. 1-2 if flute plays.

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7
 bear a Son.

unis. mp *cresc.*
 Be - hold, a vir - gin shall con -

7

10
 Shall con-ceive and bear a Son, and bear a Son; and His
 ceive and bear a Son,

mp *mp*

10
dim.

13 *cresc.* *mf*

name shall be called Won-der - ful Coun - sel - or,

cresc. *mf*

13 *mp cresc.* *mf*

16 *unis.*

the Might - y God, the Ev - er - last - ing

unis.

16

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19 *cresc.* 20 *f*

Fa - ther; And His name shall be

cresc. *f*

div.

19 20 *f*

cresc. *f*

mf

22 *mf*

called Won - der - ful Coun - sel - or, the Prince of

mf

unis.

22 *mf*

1 2 1 6

Prince of

25

Peace, the Prince of Peace.

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. Both are in a key signature of two flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The music starts at measure 25. The vocal line has lyrics: "Peace, the Prince of Peace." The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

25

Detailed description: This system contains the piano accompaniment for the second system, starting at measure 25. It continues the eighth-note bass line and chordal accompaniment from the first system.

28 *poco rit.* **29** *unis. f* *a tempo*

For un - to us a Child is born, a

unis. f

For un - to us a Child is

poco rit. *f*

Detailed description: This system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment for the third system, starting at measure 28. The vocal line has lyrics: "For un - to us a Child is born, a" and "For un - to us a Child is". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. Performance markings include "poco rit." at the start, "a tempo" at measure 29, and "f" (forte) below the piano staff.

28 **29** *a tempo*

poco rit. *f*

Detailed description: This system contains the piano accompaniment for the fourth system, starting at measure 28. It continues the eighth-note bass line and chordal accompaniment. Performance markings include "poco rit." at the start and "f" (forte) below the piano staff.

31

Son is giv - en; ————— For un - to us a Child is
 born, a Son is giv - en; ————— For

f

31

31

34

born, a Son is giv - en, a Son is giv - en; ————— And the
 un - to us a Son is giv - en, *mf*

mf

34

34

37

cresc.

gov - ernment shall be up - on His shoul - der,

cresc.

f

3

cresc.

37

mf

cresc.

f

40

and He shall reign on Dav - id's throne for -

(*tacet to m. 53*)

40

43 *cresc.* , 44 *ff*

ev - er; And His name shall be

cresc. *ff*

cresc. *ff*

46 *div.* *unis.* *f*

called Won - der - ful Coun-sel-or; the Prince of

f

f

49 Prince of

Peace, the Prince of Peace.

dim.

52 *unis. mp* 53 *rit. poco a poco al fine*

Be - hold, a vir - gin shall con - ceive

mp *rit. poco a poco al fine*

(FLUTE)

52 53 *mp* *rit. poco a poco al fine*

55 *p*

and bear a Son.

p

ceive

mp *p*

55 *p*

ADVENT PROMISE

FLUTE

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