

# Rehearsal Notes for 'The Shepherd King'

I thought you all did brilliantly at the group rehearsals and I hope the following notes will help you and your students prepare for the performance at the Drill Hall in March. Please ask ALL students to use the website [www.pburrell.uk](http://www.pburrell.uk) to learn the music and especially follow the links to learn the words. The staff parts of the 'Miserere' are under the lyrics of 'Back With You'.

**It's In Your Heart** – Make sure that everyone is really attentive and focused on the conductor. This is true for the start of every new section but also for coming off with a clear "T" at the end of Heart. Learn the start of the second verse ('I may not be the greatest man ...') and the middle 8 ('Never give up hope, you really cannot tell ...'). Be ready to sing either note on the word 'Heart' at the end of the chorus.

**A Song of Peacefulness** – Pupils should stand still during the 3 solo verses. Make sure that whilst the song is slow, it does not sound drab. In the chorus, each of the 3 sections is sung separately before they appear in 3 parts. Make sure that pupils are ready to do any of the 3 parts with confidence.

**David and Goliath** – Take time to get the exact rhythms of the verse especially the little gaps before e.g. 'You're never sure ...'. The band will play what is written so everyone needs to be especially ready to come in strongly at the beginning 'With sharpened spear ...'. In the layers of the chorus ('Honour, Power, Glory, Praise ...', students should be ready to do any of the 3 parts. **Learn the second verse 'With stone and sling and God in my heart ...'**. Don't forget the **repeat** of the chorus at the end and also the repeats of 'Be to the King of Kings ..' with 3 parts on the very last chord on the 3<sup>rd</sup> time.

**Friends** – Learn both parts in the chorus so they are strong and confident. Hold on the last notes of each of the phrases as written.

**Water From The Well** – Be strong in the chorus. Learn carefully the tricky 'Ah ...' section at the end for the repeat of the chorus. Ideally, each school should try this in 2 parts.

**The Lord Is My Shepherd** - Be very patient whilst standing during the reading. Watch Nav **carefully** for the point where the choir comes in. Be clear and not drab in singing the chorus, noting the exact rhythm on '... I know He is there ...'. Make sure that the phrase ending notes have their right length.

**David's Lament** - Solo

**High, High, High** – Be confident on each of the three parts. Try layering each part within your choir/class. The words 'High, high, high' should be separated and firm rather than smooth.

**Back With You** - Focus is really important in this one so that each choir entry of the 'Miserere' is firm and clear. Note the difference between the 3 'Miserere' sections at the beginning and the 3 at the very end where the last note is different. Watch Nav carefully for the entries and the ending. The staff parts of the 'Miserere' are under 'Back With You' on the website.

**David Danced** - Keep focus during the introductory solo. All sing 'David danced ...' at the beginning. Please make sure that the notes of 'David Leapt' and 'David praised' are lower than the opening ('David danced'). The words 'O Praise Him for His mighty works ...' should be really strong and sustained. It all gets quicker and then slows down again at bar 39 for the solo. After the short solo, come in clearly with 'Sing Halleluia ...' first in unison then in 2 parts. Very importantly, we want the whole piece to end well so in the following **round** from bar 50 (page 102); Practise doing this in 3 parts with your choir/class.

It starts with 2 very slow notes 'Da - vid ..' I think it is best if ALL sing from bar 50 and then peel off into their own part of the round. Confidence and independence are the 2 biggest factors especially from bar 66 (bottom of page 103) when all 3 different parts are in. It gets quicker and quicker but the words should still be clear right up to the ending with the fast solo then all in with 'Sing Halleluia ...' unison then 2 parts and then with a majestic 'Yay!' at the end.

Paul Burrell