



Ah, Holy Jesus



Notes from the Arranger

“Ah, Holy Jesus” is one of the most poignant hymns for Holy Week, as it describes the events of the passion of Jesus. My goal was to musically capture these events from Jesus’ quiet, fervent prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane, his trial and gruesome mistreatment, his agonizing journey as he carried his cross through the streets of Jerusalem, to his last breath, commending his spirit into his Father’s hands.

The repetitive quarter note chords which dominate this arrangement serve to illustrate Jesus’ conflict in doing his Father’s will and his own human fear of the horrible mistreatment and death he will suffer. In order to play these chords together and without rushing, make sure ringers are subdividing, keeping the eighth note pulse constant. Breathing together before each measure will not only provide rhythmic stability, but will help the group feel the piece as one unit instead of as several, separate players. Try the slightest accent on beats 1 and 3 for a more “forward” feel as the piece progresses.

As the quarter note chords become more and more heavy and thick in measures 31-44, keep a steady, ponderous tempo, being careful not to rush. In this section do not accent beats 1 and 3, but keep each chord at the same volume, representing Jesus’ steps carrying his cross, and the hammering of the nails.

In measures 45 to the end, reflect on the last words of Jesus before his final breath:

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34)

“Today you will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43)

“Woman, behold your son! Behold, your mother!” (John 19:26-27)

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46)

“I thirst” (John 19:28)

“It is finished” (John 19:30)

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit” (Luke 23:46)

— Cathy Moglebust

Ah, Holy Jesus

3, 4, or 5 octaves

Handbells used: 25, (33), (41)

optional

Musical notation for the introduction of 'Ah, Holy Jesus'. It features a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with a sharp sign on the second line. The bass staff has a lower melodic line. There are two 'optional' sections indicated by brackets: one at the beginning of the treble staff and one at the end of the bass staff.

optional

3 octave choirs omit notes in ().

4 octave choirs omit notes in [].

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

arr. Cathy Moklebust (ASCAP)

Meditative (♩ = ca. 66)

Musical notation for measures 1-3 of 'Ah, Holy Jesus'. The piece is in 4/4 time. Measure 1 starts with a treble staff showing a chord of G4, A4, B4, C5 and a bass staff showing a chord of G2, A2, B2, C3. The tempo is marked 'mp delicately'. Measure 2 continues the chords. Measure 3 shows a change in the treble staff to G4, A4, B4, C5 and the bass staff to G2, A2, B2, C3.

Musical notation for measures 4-6 of 'Ah, Holy Jesus'. Measure 4 continues the chords. Measure 5 shows a change in the treble staff to G4, A4, B4, C5 and the bass staff to G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 6 continues the chords.

Musical notation for measures 7-9 of 'Ah, Holy Jesus'. Measure 7 continues the chords. Measure 8 shows a change in the treble staff to G4, A4, B4, C5 and the bass staff to G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 9 shows a change in the treble staff to G4, A4, B4, C5 and the bass staff to G2, A2, B2, C3. The tempo is marked 'mp' and 'f (mel.)'.

An edition for 2 or 3 octaves is available, code CGB1407. The two editions are compatible for massed ringing.

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CGB1408

PREVIEW

10 11 12

13 14 15

16 17 18

19 20 21

The image displays a musical score for piano, consisting of four systems of staves. Each system contains two staves (treble and bass clef). The score is numbered 10 through 21. The notation includes various chords and melodic lines. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'PREVIEW' is overlaid across the center of the page. The score concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final measure (21).

Musical score for piano, measures 34-42. The score is written for two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Allegretto'. The score includes measure numbers 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, and 42. A large, diagonal watermark 'PREFACE' is overlaid across the score.

Measures 34-35: Treble clef has a melodic line with eighth notes and a half note. Bass clef has a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Measures 36-37: Treble clef continues the melodic line. Bass clef accompaniment continues.

Measures 38-39: Treble clef has a melodic line with a half note. Bass clef accompaniment continues.

Measures 40-41: Treble clef has a melodic line with a half note. Bass clef accompaniment continues.

Measure 42: Treble clef has a melodic line with a half note. Bass clef accompaniment continues.

43 *ff* 44 *rit.* 45 *mp a tempo* R LV

43 44 45

46 47 48 LV LV LV

46 47 48

49 50 51 LV R LV

49 50 51

52 53 54 LV *poco rit. e dim. al fine* R *pp*

52 53 54