

## 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 repetetive 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:

Cathy Moklebust

<sup>&</sup>quot;Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34)

<sup>&</sup>quot;Today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43)

<sup>&</sup>quot;Woman, behold your son! Behold, your mother!" (John 19:26-27)

<sup>&</sup>quot;My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

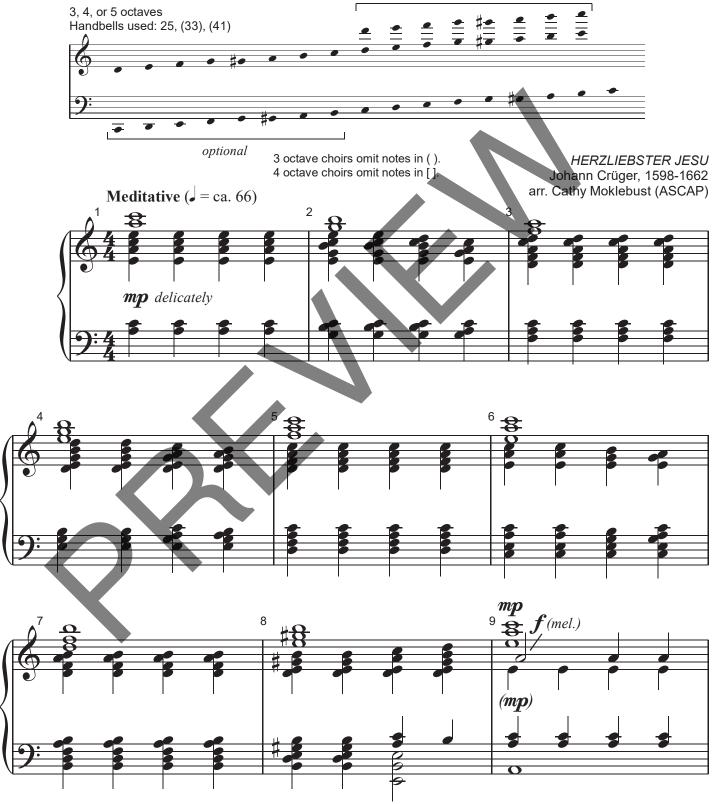
<sup>&</sup>quot;I thirst" (John 19:28)

<sup>&</sup>quot;It is finished" (John 19:30)

<sup>&</sup>quot;Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46)

## Ah, Holy Jesus

optional



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

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