

Esther

A children's musical for unison/two-part voices,
piano and two C instruments

by
Erik Whitehill

Related Products:

Singer's Edition – CGC58

Preview Kit – CGK31
(includes Singer's Edition and demo CD)

Demonstration CD – CGCD59

Demonstration CD 10-Pak – CGCDP59
(10 demo CDs for individual rehearsal)

Accompaniment CD – CGCD60

To use art and images from *Esther*, go to
www.choristersguild.org/artwork-form.html
Cover art by Mara Dockery.

Copyright © 2015 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
Reproduction of all or any portion in any form is prohibited without permission of the publisher.

The copying of this music is prohibited by law and is not covered by CCLI, LicenSing, or OneLicense.net.

Foreword

This musical was written for the young singers at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Tempe, Arizona in 2007. At the time of its creation, I was in my 11th year serving there as the Associate Director of Music Ministry. There are many people to whom I owe a great debt of gratitude for their help and encouragement making “Esther” a reality. I especially wish to thank Carole Lea Arenson, my partner in ministry and long-time friend, for her vision, continuous support and high standard of excellence.

Thank you to the following people for support, suggestions and guidance throughout this project:

Denis Foote	Lyndy Jones
Valerie Grina	Kate Klimut
Greg Handel	Michael Sumner
David Hein	Evelyn Whitehill
Sara Hiller	

I would also like to thank the wonderful editors at Choristers Guild who worked with me to bring this show into its present form: Susan LaBarr and Katie Houts. I am delighted to be a part of the Choristers Guild family!

Blessings,
Erik Whitehill

Esther Synopsis

The book of Esther, chapters 2-8

Esther is set in the Citadel of Susa, a capitol of the Persian Empire (present-day Iran). The king of the citadel was named Ahasuerus (*uh-has-you-air-us*). King Ahasuerus had become displeased with his wife, Vashti, so he banished her from Susa and began searching for a new wife. Each available young woman in the kingdom was to present the king with a gift of their choice, and the king would then choose his wife. All the young women were prepared by Hegai and Shaashgaz, the king’s servants.

At that time, Mordecai was a Jewish man living in the Citadel of Susa. Mordecai was in the king’s good favor, for he had saved the king’s life by alerting him of an assassination attempt by gatekeepers Bigthan and Teresh. Mordecai raised his cousin, Esther (whose parents had died), as his own child, and she was among the young women who were candidates to become queen. When Esther appeared before the king, he loved her the most and chose her to be his wife. King Ahasuerus did not know Esther was a Jew.

Soon after this, the king promoted a man named Haman to be his second-in-command. When Haman would ride his horse down the street all the people would bow to him except for Mordecai, who would bow to no one but his God. This enraged Haman and he plotted against the Jews, making a plan to destroy all of them throughout the Persian Empire. He manipulated the king to gain approval for his plan.

Mordecai tore his robes and put on sackcloth and ashes upon hearing this news. He warned Esther that all Jews (including her) would be killed...and only Esther could stop it from happening. She had to talk with the king. However, Esther was not permitted to see the king unless he asked for her, and if she went on her own accord, she could be put to death. Esther was terrified of this, but she made a plan. Esther requested a banquet with the king and Haman. Meanwhile, Haman ordered a stockade built to humiliate Mordecai.

That night, the king called Haman and asked, “What should be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?” Haman selfishly assumed the king meant to honor him, so he said that the man should wear a royal robe and be led on one of the king’s horses through the city streets, with one proclaiming: “This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!” The king thought this was good, and proceeded to ask Haman to lead Mordecai through the streets in this way in order to honor him for previously warning the king of a plot against him.

Esther requested a second banquet with the king and Haman. During this banquet, Esther told the king of Haman’s plan to massacre the Jews in the Persian Empire and acknowledged her own Jewish ethnicity. The king was enraged and ordered Haman to suffer in the stockade he had built for Mordecai. The king appointed Mordecai as his second-in-command, and the Jewish people were saved.

The Cast of Characters

Singing and Speaking Roles

MORDECAI – a Jewish man living in the Citadel of Susa

ESTHER – Mordecai’s cousin and eventual queen

HAMAN – King Ahasuerus’ second-in-command

Speaking-Only Roles

NARRATOR – split this role into multiple NARRATORS if you have a large cast

KING AHASUERUS – the king of the Citadel of Susa

HEGAI – the host of the king’s singing contest

SHAASHGAZ – the judge of the king’s singing contest, a pessimistic sourpuss

CONTESTANT #1 – the first to audition to become queen, very flaky

BIGTHAN – the king’s gatekeeper, plans assassination attempt

TERESH – another gatekeeper, a bit slow

KEEPER OF THE RECORDS – the king’s record keeper and historian, very dry

Singing-Only Roles

KING’S HERALDS (2-3) – small ensemble in “King Ahasuerus Seeks a Wife”

CONTESTANT #2 – soloist in “Fluffy the Camel,” very self-confident

SOLOISTS (4) – optional soloist roles are included in “The Citadel of Susa” and Citadel Reprises I, II, III

Non-Speaking and Non-Singing Roles

STAGEHAND – in charge of removing the bad acts from the stage during the singing contest

FLUFFY THE CAMEL (1-2, depending on the costume) – CONTESTANT #2’s pet

KING’S GUARDS (2) – the king’s personal body guards

CASTLE CATERERS (2-3) – responsible for setting up Esther’s banquets

Optional Dancing Roles

SACKCLOTH DANCER – an optional dancer for “A Dark Day Arrives”

FINALE DANCERS (5-6) – an ensemble of optional dancers for “In Your Hands (Finale)”

Production Notes

Set Design

This musical set can be as simple or elaborate as you wish. The scenes take place in one of two places: in the city square or at the castle. To change from the city square to the castle, you can simply add a throne for the king, a table beside it for the Book of Records, and a gate to designate the castle limits.

Costumes

Use what you have on hand – solid-color robes or frocks for the CHOIR, MORDECAI, and ESTHER; a kingly robe and crown for KING AHASUERUS, helmets and shields for the KING’S GUARDS, a gold- or royal-colored robe or accessory for ESTHER once she becomes queen. Burlap belts or overlays can be added to the CHOIR’s costumes during “A Dark Day Arrives.” The only costume you may need to enlist help to create: Fluffy the Camel!

Musical Selections

1. The Citadel of Susa.....	(CHOIR).....	5
2. The Citadel of Susa (Reprise I).....	(CHOIR).....	8
3. King Ahasuerus Seeks a Wife.....	(KING’S HERALDS, CHOIR).....	12
4. You May Be a Queen.....	(MORDECAI, CHOIR).....	17
5. Contestant #1 Intro.....		22
6. Fluffy the Camel.....	(CONTESTANT #2).....	23
7. Could It Be?.....	(ESTHER, CHOIR).....	26
8. You Are Now a Queen.....	(CHOIR).....	30
9. It’s All About Me.....	(HAMAN, CHOIR).....	35
10. A Dark Day Arrives.....	(MORDECAI, CHOIR).....	39
11. In Your Hands.....	(ESTHER).....	48
12. The Citadel of Susa (Reprise II).....	(CHOIR).....	53
13. In the Name of the King.....	(HAMAN).....	57
14. In the Name of the King (Reprise).....	(CHOIR).....	61
15. The Citadel of Susa (Reprise III).....	(CHOIR).....	65
16. In Your Hands (Finale).....	(CHOIR, OPTIONAL CONGREGATION).....	69

Esther

SCENE ONE

In the city square. The NARRATOR is alone on stage.

NARRATOR: And now, we present to you portions of the book of Esther from the Old Testament. It is a story of faith ... courage ... corruption ... and justice. The setting is the Citadel of Susa, a capitol of the Persian Empire. We begin with a poor Jewish man named Mordecai and his cousin, Esther.

MORDECAI and ESTHER enter as they are mentioned in the song.

1. The Citadel of Susa

Erik Whitehill

Erik Whitehill

♩ = 80

Piano *mf*

OPTIONAL SOLOIST

Part I *mf*

Once, in the cit - a - del of Su - sa, there lived a Jew named Mor - de - cai,

Part II

The musical score is for a piano and optional soloist. The piano part is in 2/2 time with a tempo of 80 beats per minute. It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The optional soloist part is a single melodic line in the right hand. The lyrics are: 'Once, in the cit - a - del of Su - sa, there lived a Jew named Mor - de - cai,'. The score is marked with a large 'DRAFT' watermark.

A part for C instruments is printed on page 76.

Copyright © 2015 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
Reproduction of all or any portion in any form is prohibited without permission of the publisher.

The copying of this music is prohibited by law and is not covered by CCLI, LicenSing, or OneLicense.net.

NARRATOR: Esther's parents died when she was very young and Mordecai had raised her as his own child. He knew she was special and that God had brought them together for a reason. Mordecai prayed for guidance every day. In time, Esther grew into a beautiful young woman.

MORDECAI and ESTHER exit.

As the music vamps and during the NARRATOR's next line, we move from the city square to the castle.

NARRATOR: On the opposite side of the citadel stood the king's castle. Susa was ruled by a temperamental man named Ahasuerus. He had recently become displeased with his wife, Vashti, and had banished her from Susa. Now he was alone and miserable.

KING AHASUERUS and the KING'S GUARDS enter. The king looks forlorn.

2. The Citadel of Susa (Reprise I)

Erik Whitehill

Erik Whitehill

♩ = 80

C Instrument I

C Instrument II

Piano

vamp

mf

mf vamp

A part for C instruments is printed on page 77.

Copyright © 2015 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
Reproduction of all or any portion in any form is prohibited without permission of the publisher.

The copying of this music is prohibited by law and is not covered by CCLI, LicenSing, or OneLicense.net.

3. King Ahasuerus Seeks a Wife

Erik Whitehill

Erik Whitehill

$\text{♩} = 120$

HERALDS *mf*

King_

Piano *mf*

5

— A - has - u - er - us seeks_ a wife! King_ A - has - u - er - us seeks_

8

— a wife! All the girls in town, come_ and ga - ther 'round, King_

8vb

A part for C instruments is printed on page 78.

Copyright © 2015 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
 Reproduction of all or any portion in any form is prohibited without permission of the publisher.

The copying of this music is prohibited by law and is not covered by CCLI, LicenSing, or OneLicense.net.

ESTHER: *(laughs)* What?!? Me? Queen? Come on, I'm not queen material. I mean, just look at me. I'm only a poor Jewish girl.

MORDECAI: I have a feeling about this. This could be very important for your future.

ESTHER: Sure, *you* feel strongly about it. But what about me?

MORDECAI: You have always been a queen in my eyes.

Music begins for "You May Be a Queen" and vamps as the dialogue continues.

ESTHER: Oh, Cousin Mordecai, you're just saying that to be kind. I'm just ... well ... I'm *common*.

MORDECAI: Not to me. I have always known that you would do great things one day.

ESTHER: *(sighs)* I know you mean well, but I could never be queen. It just isn't possible.

MORDECAI: Anything is possible with God, Esther.

4. You May Be a Queen

Erik Whitehill

Erik Whitehill

The musical score is for the song "You May Be a Queen". It features three staves: C Instrument I, C Instrument II, and Piano. The tempo is marked as 85 (♩ = 85). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 2/2. The Piano part begins with a treble and bass clef, marked "Piano" and "mp vamp". The C Instrument I and II parts are marked "C Instrument I" and "C Instrument II" respectively. The score includes a large "DRAFT" watermark.

A part for C instruments is printed on page 79.

Copyright © 2015 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
Reproduction of all or any portion in any form is prohibited without permission of the publisher.

The copying of this music is prohibited by law and is not covered by CCLI, LicenSing, or OneLicense.net.

5. Contestant #1 Intro

Erik Whitehill

Piano

CONTESTANT #1 (giggling, trying to gain self-control) Ok ... (giggles)

5

SHAASHGAZ: Get on with it.

CONTESTANT #1: (still giggling) Ok. I can do this. I can do this.

HEGAI: At least we know she is not lip-syncing.

SHAASHGAZ: I kind of wish she was... Come on, let's go...

The accompanist plays "Contestant #1 Intro" again. CONTESTANT #1 takes a deep breath, but dissolves into another giggle fit.

SHAASHGAZ: All right! That's enough.

KING AHASUERUS claps his hands and the STAGEHAND hooks cane around CONTESTANT #1 to pull her offstage.

HEGAI: Wow, Shaashgaz. A major disappointment.

SHAASHGAZ: Disappointment?? Hegai, there are no words in my vocabulary to describe how terrible that was. At least it was mercifully short.

HEGAI: Well, let's move on to Contestant #2.

CONTESTANT #2 enters with her camel, FLUFFY, in tow. She begins to sing while FLUFFY dances.

Copyright © 2015 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
Reproduction of all or any portion in any form is prohibited without permission of the publisher.

The copying of this music is prohibited by law and is not covered by CCLI, LicenSing, or OneLicense.net.

6. Fluffy the Camel

23

Erik Whitehill

Erik Whitehill

Easy swing (♩ = 100)

C Instrument I

C Instrument II

CONTESTANT #2
mf
I love my pet

Piano
mf

Inst. I
mf

Inst. II
mf

cam-el, "Fluf-fy," and he loves me too!

A part for C instruments in printed on page 80.

Copyright © 2015 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
Reproduction of all or any portion in any form is prohibited without permission of the publisher.

The copying of this music is prohibited by law and is not covered by CCLI, LicenSing, or OneLicense.net.

CGBK71

MORDECAI: If you don't, we'll all be put to death. Esther, this is why you are queen. This is God's plan for you.

ESTHER: Oh, Cousin Mordecai, this is a terrible choice! I am frightened.

MORDECAI: Just remember, Esther... you are not alone.

MORDECAI exits. Music begins for "In Your Hands."

ESTHER: It seems that this is my calling ... my people need me. I must go talk to the king. *(she looks up)*
God, give me strength.

11. In Your Hands

Erik Whitehill

Erik Whitehill

The musical score is for the piece "In Your Hands" by Erik Whitehill. It is written for three parts: C Instrument I, C Instrument II, and Piano. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked with a quarter note equal to 90 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked as *mf* (mezzo-forte) for the C instruments and *mp* (mezzo-piano) for the piano. The score consists of four measures. C Instrument I and C Instrument II have similar melodic lines, while the piano part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

A part for C instruments is printed on page 84.

Copyright © 2015 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
Reproduction of all or any portion in any form is prohibited without permission of the publisher.

The copying of this music is prohibited by law and is not covered by CCLI, LicenSing, or OneLicense.net.

Annoyed, KING AHASUERUS motions for the KEEPER OF THE ROYAL RECORD to leave. HAMAN enters.

NARRATOR: At that moment, Haman was headed toward the king's quarters hoping to share his plan for humiliating Mordecai. When the king saw him, he summoned Haman immediately. This made both of them very happy.

HAMAN: Yes, Your Majesty?

KING AHASUERUS: What should be done to honor a man the king wishes to honor?

NARRATOR: Haman, of course, selfishly assumed the king wanted to honor *him*. His mind was full of ideas.

13. In the Name of the King

Erik Whitehill

Erik Whitehill

Shuffle, swing eighths (♩ = 150)

Piano *mf*

Inst. I
5 C Instrument I
second time only

Inst. II
C Instrument II
second time only

1st time: HAMAN
2nd time: CHOIR
mf

Give him a roy - al robe! — Give him a gold - en

A part for C instruments is printed on page 86.

Copyright © 2015 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
Reproduction of all or any portion in any form is prohibited without permission of the publisher.

The copying of this music is prohibited by law and is not covered by CCLI, LicenSing, or OneLicense.net.

14. In the Name of the King (Reprise)

61

Erik Whitehill

Erik Whitehill

Shuffle, swing eighths ($\text{♩} = 150$)

Piano *mf*

Inst. I C Instrument I

Inst. II C Instrument II

CHOIR (Mocking HAMAN) *mf*

Give him a roy - al robe! Give him a gold - en

A part for C instruments is printed on page 87.

Copyright © 2015 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
Reproduction of all or any portion in any form is prohibited without permission of the publisher.

The copying of this music is prohibited by law and is not covered by CCLI, LicenSing, or OneLicense.net.

CGBK71

15. The Citadel of Susa (Reprise III)

65

Erik Whitehill

Erik Whitehill

$\text{♩} = 80$

C Instrument I

C Instrument II

Piano

mf

mf

mf

Inst. I

Inst. II

OPTIONAL SOLOIST

Part I

Part II

Once, in the cit - a - del of Su - sa, the se - cond night of feast - ing came,

The musical score is for a piece in 3/4 time with a tempo of 80 beats per minute. It features a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The score is divided into several parts: C Instrument I and II, Piano, two instrumental parts (Inst. I and II), and two vocal parts (Part I and Part II). The piano part provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines in both hands. The vocal parts enter with the lyrics 'Once, in the cit - a - del of Su - sa, the se - cond night of feast - ing came,'. The score includes dynamic markings such as 'mf' (mezzo-forte) and a large 'DRAFT' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

A part for C instruments is printed on page 88.

Copyright © 2015 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
Reproduction of all or any portion in any form is prohibited without permission of the publisher.

The copying of this music is prohibited by law and is not covered by CCLI, LicenSing, or OneLicense.net.

CGBK71