

Joy to the World
Thomas Keesecker

CGA1467
SATB with piano



choristersguild

JOY JOY JOY JOY JOY

Joy

to the

World

JOY JOY JOY JOY JOY

The text of “Joy to the World” was first published in a collection of hymn texts by Isaac Watts in 1719 – almost three hundred years ago! It is based on Psalm 98. Although I do think the tune ANTIOCH (which has been paired to Watts’ text since the early 1800s) is good and jolly, something different came to me for this anthem setting. I hope choirs that perform it can do so by memory, allowing their voices and bodies to be fully engaged in the music making. Enjoy the rhythms that conclude stanzas 1, 2, and 4. The 3rd stanza – “No more let sin and sorrow grow ...” should be sung expressively.

If necessary, the piece may be performed SAB with the bass voices singing only the tenor part. The tenor line is written in a singable range for low alto voices, creating another flexible voicing option for an SAB choir: have Alto II sing the Tenor part, and keep the bass voices on the designated Bass part.

A word about programming – even though we associate “Joy to the World” as a Christmas hymn, the original intent was to glorify Christ’s return, his second coming. Psalm 98 appears several times in the lectionary. Perhaps programming this piece at other times besides Christmas might be a surprising and thought-provoking experience for the listeners.

Thomas Keesecker

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Thomas Keesecker

Moving! (♩ = c. 76)

Piano

mp cresc.

pedal lightly

S
A

Joy!_ Joy!_ Joy_ to the world!

T
B

f unis. *div.*

Joy!_ Joy!_ Joy_ to the world!_____

f

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5

Joy!_ Joy!_ Joy_ to the world! The

unis. Joy!_ Joy!_ Joy_ to the world!_____ The

div.

This system contains measures 4, 5, and 6. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 4 is marked with a '5' above the staff. The lyrics are 'Joy!_ Joy!_ Joy_ to the world! The'. The piano part has a treble and bass clef. Measure 5 includes the instruction '*div.*' above the vocal line. Measure 6 has a long horizontal line under the lyrics 'world!_____ The'.

7

Lord is come! Let earth_re - ceive_ her King.

Lord is come! Let

unis.

This system contains measures 7 and 8. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Measure 7 is marked with a '7' above the staff. The lyrics are 'Lord is come! Let earth_re - ceive_ her King.'. The piano part has a treble and bass clef. Measure 8 includes the instruction '*unis.*' above the vocal line.