

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

mf $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. It consists of three parts: Piano, Part I (Optional Soloist), and Part II. The Piano part is marked *mf* and has a tempo of 80 beats per minute. Part I is also marked *mf* and includes the lyrics: "Once, in the cit - a - del of Su - sa, there lived a Jew named Mor - de - cai,". Part II is a vocal line with a fermata at the end of each measure. The Piano accompaniment continues throughout the piece.

A part for C instruments is printed on page 76.

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9 C Instrument I
mf

9 C Instrument II
mf

10 (tutti)

CHORUS
mf

who, all in all, was quite a guy, in the

Mor - de - cai, quite a guy, in the (tutti)

13

cit - a - del, the cit - a - del of Su - sa. He raised Es - ther, his

cit - a - del, the cit - a - del of Su - sa. He raised Es - ther, his

3. King Ahasuerus Seeks a Wife

Erik Whitehill

Erik Whitehill

$\text{♩} = 120$

HERALDS *mf*

King_

Piano *mf*

8^{vb}

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_

(8^{vb})

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 120. The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the vocal line starting with 'HERALDS' and 'King_'. The piano accompaniment is marked *mf*. The second system begins at measure 5 with the lyrics 'A - has - u - er - us seeks a wife! King A - has - u - er - us seeks_'. The third system begins at measure 8 with the lyrics 'a wife! All the girls in town, come and ga - ther 'round, King_'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. There are dynamic markings *mf* and *8^{vb}* (8va) indicated.

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11

Inst. I C Instrument I

Inst. II C Instrument II

Heralds

Choir

A - has - u - er - us seeks a wife!

(CHOIR) *mf*

All the girls of Su - sa join

8vb

14

Inst. I

Inst. II

Heralds

Choir

King

our big pa-loo - za! All the girls of Su - sa join our big pa-loo - za! All

8vb

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 piece "You May Be a Queen" by Erik Whitehill. It is written in 2/2 time with a tempo marking of quarter note = 85. The score is divided into three parts: C Instrument I, C Instrument II, and Piano. The C Instrument parts are currently blank, while the Piano part contains the musical notation. The Piano part begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody in the right hand consists of a series of eighth notes, and the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with quarter notes. The tempo and dynamics markings are *mp* and *vamp*.

A part for C instruments is printed on page 79.

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5

Inst. I

Inst. II *second time only*

mp

1st time: MORDECAI Solo
2nd time: PART I *mp*

Part I

Some - how I al - ways knew _____ that

2nd time: PART II *mp*

Part II

Some - how I al - ways knew _____ that

9

Inst. I

Inst. II *second time only*

mp

I

God had more_ in store for you. Your jour - ney's end_

II

God had more_ in store for you. Your jour - ney's end_

13

Inst. I
Inst. II

Two instrumental staves, labeled 'Inst. I' and 'Inst. II', showing musical notation for measures 13 through 16. The music features a melodic line in the upper staff and a supporting line in the lower staff, with various rests and notes.

I
II

may be un - seen, but
may be un - seen, but

Two vocal staves, labeled 'I' and 'II', with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "may be un - seen, but" for both parts. The notation includes notes and rests corresponding to the lyrics.

Piano accompaniment for measures 13 through 16, showing both treble and bass clef staves with chords and melodic lines.

17

Inst. I
Inst. II

Two instrumental staves, labeled 'Inst. I' and 'Inst. II', showing musical notation for measures 17 through 20. The music continues with melodic and harmonic development.

I
II

trust in God, Es - ther and
trust in God, Es - ther and

Two vocal staves, labeled 'I' and 'II', with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "trust in God, Es - ther and" for both parts. The notation includes notes and rests.

Piano accompaniment for measures 17 through 20, showing both treble and bass clef staves with chords and melodic lines.

7. Could It Be?

Erik Whitehill

Erik Whitehill

♩ = 90

ESTHER *mf*

I am a sim - ple girl,

Piano *mp*

4

come from a dif - f'rent world. I have no gift

7

to bring, on - ly a song to sing.

3

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10

I'm not just a pret - ty face. I'm try - ing to find_

13

my place. Are there big things in store?

16

Is this what I've wait - ed for? Could it be_

mf

9. It's All About Me

Erik Whitehill

Erik Whitehill

Swing (♩ = 120)

Piano

mp
vamp

1st time: HAMAN
2nd time: HAMAN and CHOIR

mf

5

This is my day. — It's all a - bout me.
This is your day. — It's all a - bout you.

8

What can I say? — It's all a - bout
What can we say? — It's all a - bout

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11

me. I am in de - mand!_
 you. You are in de - mand!_

14

I'm the king's right hand, 'cause
 You're the king's right hand, 'cause

17

I'm pro - mo - ted now!_ Ev - 'ry - one
 you're pro - mo - ted now!_ Ev - 'ry - one

20

must bow! 1.
 must bow! 1.

MORDECAI

5 *mp*

Put on your sack-cloth and ash - es, a dark day ar - rives.

8

— What did we do to the king to pay with our lives?

12

— God, we fast and pray that hope sur - rives.

16

Put on your sack-cloth and ash - es, a dark day ar -

This system contains measures 16, 17, and 18. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and a choir part. The piano accompaniment consists of a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with chords. The choir part is a single staff with a whole note rest.

19

rives.

This system contains measures 19, 20, 21, and 22. The vocal line continues with a long note in measure 19 and rests in measures 20-22. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady bass line and treble accompaniment. The choir part remains at rest.

23

C Instrument I

C Instrument II

This system contains measures 23, 24, 25, and 26. It features two instrumental parts, C Instrument I and C Instrument II, both with rests. A piano accompaniment part begins in measure 23 with a melody in the treble clef and chords in the bass clef, marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.

CHOIR Part II

CHOIR Part I/MORDECAI

Put on your sack-cloth and ash - es, a dark day ar -

This system contains measures 27, 28, 29, and 30. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and two choir parts. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady bass line and treble accompaniment. The choir parts are at rest.

27

Inst. I

Inst. II

mp

mp

Put on your sack-cloth and ash - es, a dark day ar - rives.

rives. What did we do to the

30

Inst. I

Inst. II

What did we do to the king to pay with our lives?

king to pay with our lives? God, we fast and

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 in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 90. The score consists of three parts: C Instrument I, C Instrument II, and Piano. The C Instrument I part begins with a *mf* dynamic and features a melodic line with slurs. The C Instrument II part also begins with a *mf* dynamic and provides a harmonic accompaniment. The Piano part begins with a *mp* dynamic and features a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both the right and left hands.

A part for C instruments is printed on page 84.

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5

Inst. I

Inst. II

mp

mp

ESTHER
mf

I put my life in your hands. Dir - ect me.

8

Inst. I

Inst. II

Give me the words_ to say. De - spite the de - cree,_ my peo -

14. In the Name of the King (Reprise)

Erik Whitehill

Erik Whitehill

Shuffle, swing eighths (♩ = 150)

Piano *mf*

Inst. I C Instrument I *mf*

Inst. II C Instrument II *mf*

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.

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8

Inst. I

Inst. II

crown! Throw a pa - rade

11

Inst. I

Inst. II

down the main drag of the town! And with the cheer - ing crowd,

16. In Your Hands (Finale)

Erik Whitehill

Erik Whitehill

Spirited! (♩ = 110)

Piano *f*

Inst. I C Instrument I *mf* *second time only*

Inst. II C Instrument II *mf* *second time only*

1st time: CHOIR
2nd time: CHOIR and CONGREGATION*
mf

We put our lives in your hands...

mf

A part for C instruments is printed on pages 89-90.
*A congregational part is printed on page 75.

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7

Inst. I

Inst. II

— Dir-ect us. Give us the words_ to say._____ In

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 7 through 9. It consists of four staves. The top two staves are for instruments I and II, both in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The third staff is the vocal line, also in treble clef with one flat, containing the lyrics: "— Dir-ect us. Give us the words_ to say._____ In". The bottom two staves are the piano accompaniment in grand staff notation (treble and bass clefs).

10

Inst. I

Inst. II

joy or de - spair, _ you're al - ways there. _ Help us and guide_ us we pray!

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 10 through 12. It consists of four staves. The top two staves are for instruments I and II, both in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The third staff is the vocal line, also in treble clef with one flat, containing the lyrics: "joy or de - spair, _ you're al - ways there. _ Help us and guide_ us we pray!". The bottom two staves are the piano accompaniment in grand staff notation.