



Written by
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" A Choral Reading of The Names of Jesus"

Scripture: Philippians 2:10,11 (and other scriptures naming Jesus)

"...at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Dramatic Category: Choral Reading

What is "Choral Reading"?

Choral Reading is "literature in vocal dimension," which means that multiple voices interpret literature, thus giving it dimension that a single voice-oral interpretation cannot give.

NOTE:

Please consult the "Choral Reading Guidelines" that follow this reading. There, you will find helpful hints to maximize this beautiful art form that uses the syncopated reading of scripture to communicate the truth of God's Word.

Topic: The exalted names of Jesus

Performance Time: 3 minutes

Number of Readers: 6 readers (3 men (M), 3 women (F)) + 2 or more singers (or a full choir)

NOTE:

Readers 3 and 4 must be men for the closing formation of a cross
Two or more singers who "oooooh," or "hummm" the music.
No words, only instrumental, until after the reading

Opening Formation:

Readers remain on choir riser during the Choral Reading

1 (F)

3 (M) 2 (F) 4 (M)

5 (M)

6 (F)

Closing Formation:

At the name “savior”, the readers form a cross on choir riser

1 (F)

3 (M) 2 (F) 4 (M)

5 (M)

6 (F)

Background Music:

Stirring instrumental of "Oh, For A Thousand Tongues" or another song on the theme of the majesty of Jesus, like "His Name Is Wonderful," played instrumentally throughout the reading, then sung after the reading.

Lighting:

Even light across the group of readers until the end cross formation

**** At the name “Savior,” THE FORMATION CHANGES:**

Lights go black

Magenta floor lights backlight the human cross formation on the risers

Sound / staging Note:

If you can use wireless mics, have readers come from the rear of the stage as they speak and walk forward. If not, have them stand in a formation in which they can step to the side and form a cross. (*See example above.*)

Props:

Small black notebooks in which readers keep their scripts.

(The notebooks are held waist-high, in the left hand, leaving the right hand free for gestures that “physicalize” the meaning of the words.)

Costume Suggestions: Black and white, with the addition of one other color, shared by all readers

The Script:

MUSIC: *Instrumental introduction of "Of For a Thousand Tongues" or "His Name Is Wonderful"*

6: **at the name of Jesus,**

3: **every shall bow**

5: **in heaven and on earth and under the earth**

4: **and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**

2: **to the glory of God the Father**

1: **And thou shalt call his name**

All: **Jesus**

1: **Prince of Peace**

4: **Emmanuel**

3: **Mighty God**

6: **Wonderful Counselor**

2: **The Alpha and the Omega**

5: **Holy One**

1: **Prince of life**

All: **Lord God Almighty**

2: **Lion of the tribe of Judah**

3: **Root of David**

4: **Word of Life**

6: **Advocate**

5: **The Way**

2: **Dayspring**

All: **Lord of All**

- 1: I Am**
- 3: Son of God**
- 2: Shepherd and Bishop of our Souls**
- 6: Messiah**
- 5: The Truth**
- 4: Chief Cornerstone**
- All: King of Kings**
- 3: Righteous Judge**
- 2: Light of the World**
- 1: Head of the Church**
- 5: Morning Star**
- 3: Son of Righteousness**
- 4: Governor**
- 1: Chief Shepherd**
- 2: The Resurrection and the Life**
- 3: Author and Finisher of our Faith**
- 4: Horn of Salvation**
- 6: Lord Jesus Christ**
- 5: Lamb of God**
- All: Savior**

(READERS 3 & 4 EXTEND THEIR OUTSIDE ARMS TO ACCENTUATE THE FORM OF A HUMAN CROSS.)

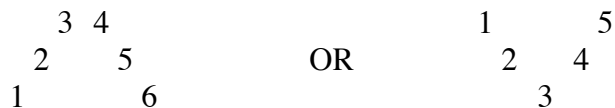
LIGHTS: SPECIAL EFFECT BACKLIGHT ON HUMAN CROSS

MUSIC: *One measure, or chorus, sung, with words, of the same song that was played instrumentally, throughout.*

The End

Choral Reading Guidelines

1. Select literature that is **lyrical** such as: songs, poems, stories with repetitious dialogue, odes, or ballads.
2. Analyze the literature to determine the **theme**. Divide it into phrases that deserve more emphatic treatment, such as a single voice for effect or all voices for effect.
3. Assign each member of the choral reading team a **number**.
4. **Divide the literature up by phrases** and decide which number or numbers will read which lines.
5. Create **“phonal”** (dominant/deeper voices) and **“anti-phonal”** (softer/higher voices) effects by assigning lines to voices that come from opposite places on the team. These voices will create the same relationship as “melody” has with “harmony” in music. This keeps the audience entertained.
6. **Choreograph** the arrangement of the readers, for example:



7. Assign **gestures** to various members of the team to emphasize the lines they will read.
8. **Costume** the readers for effect if it is appropriate. Generally, readers wear black and white. It is very effective to dress the ladies in floor-length black skirts and white blouses, and the men in black slacks, white shirts, and a colored tie. Sometimes, the addition of one other color is appropriate as long as all readers use the same additional color. This uniform effect helps tie the visual image together to create the illusion of this being “one” reading with multiple voices.
9. **Props** are used sparingly if it would add to the effect of the reading. The only constant prop used is the small black notebook in which each reader keeps his/her script. It is held at waist-height in the left hand, leaving the right hand free for gestures.
10. **Rehearse** the reading over and over so that the readers are **syncopated** and there is no interruption or hesitation in the **vocal unison**.