

HIS NAME IS
JESUS
A MUSICAL FOR CHRISTMAS

REHEARSAL GUIDE

by Dennis Allen

“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” with “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Singing two of the best-known Christmas carols is a great way to start a Christmas program. Invite your congregation to join in singing. This is a wonderful way to engage the whole church in the content of your presentation. This arrangement is straightforward, so rehearsal time should be minimal.

“What Did You Say Was the Baby’s Name?”

This classic Gaither tune is fun to sing, and it also offers the opportunity to use one of your soloists. In this “gospel-feel” style song, it will add to the performance if the choir can sing with relaxed gospel emotion. The occasional “scooping” of some notes will put a smile on the listeners’ faces. Play the demo recording for the choir so they can hear how the studio singers interpreted this happy style.

“And His Name”

Tommy Walker’s great song fits perfectly at this point in the musical. It is repetitive in sections, so learning it will be easy. On “And His name,” the sopranos should lead out, holding their note while the alto, tenor, and bass sing an answering part underneath. The key change in meas. 58 is a good place to invite the congregation to join in singing, if desired. Since the chorus is easy to learn, they should have no problem.

“Emmanuel”

It is hard to believe that this song was written over thirty years ago. It is still an exciting musical statement of the many names given to our Savior. The tempo and rhythmic energy of this piece will require careful vocal practice to be sharp and accurate. Practice *a cappella* whenever possible so the accompaniment does not cover vocal issues.

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

This is another great carol of the season. Invite your congregation to join in singing. The only area that needs choir rehearsal time is the ending tag section beginning in meas. 53. Rehearse each voice part separately, fix any issues, then put SATB together.

“He Knows My Name”

This is perhaps Tommy Walker’s most well-known song. Therefore, it is once again a great opportunity for congregational participation. The message is a tender reminder of how the God of the universe knows each one of us personally.

“Say the Name”

This is one of the most powerful songs written in recent years. All of us face storms in life, and the name of Jesus has the power to calm them. There are several pieces to this choral arrangement, so it may need more rehearsal time than any other song in this musical. The demo recording will give your choir great style suggestions, indicating the rhythmic pulse, the variety of sections, and so forth.

“Your Name”

This great song functions as a kind of invitation in this musical. It is easy to sing, and is another perfect opportunity for the choir and congregation to sing as one.