

Cry Out

...a voice of one calling in the wilderness...

Seth Shafer

Instrumentation:

2 Harps
2 Pianos
Voice
Speaker

Notes:



Pluck with the fingernails



Voice should begin syllable when word is spoken



To the Speaker:

One is cautioned against undue emphasis of Isaiah's words. Drama, for the most part, is built into the words themselves. Where questions of interpretation have arisen, the composer has indicated the emphasis and style of delivery for the effect he wishes to be achieved. The speaker may be of either gender without a specified age or voice type, as long as the part is performed eloquently and persuasively. Preferably, the narration is to be performed without amplification.

Text:

Taken from the Book of Isaiah Chapter 40

A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All men are like grass, their glory is like the flowers of the field.
The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass.
The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."

...Lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid...

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?
Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?
Who has comprehended the mind of the LORD...or showed him the path of understanding?

Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales...
Before God all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing?
To whom, then, will you compare God?

Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told to you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded?
He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.
No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grown tired and weary and young men stumble and fall;
But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Cry Out

Seth Shafer

Hesitant (♩ = 100)

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

Speaker

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

Speaker ↑ And I said, "What shall I cry?"

Somewhat Freely
senza misura

(♩ = 60) *accel.*
a battuta

Calm (♩ = 80)

10"

pp sub.

mf

mf

f

ff

pp

ff

f

ff

sfz

sfz

sfz

sfz

sfz

pp (echo)

mp

↑ What shall I cry?
(desperately)
ff

↑ All men are like grass, their
(soothingly)
mp

18

19

20

21

22

* Harmonics are to be played as written, sounding an octave higher.

Harp 1 *mf*
 Harp 2 *mf*
 Piano 1 *p* Lea *
 Piano 2 *mp* Lea * *p* Lea *
 Voice
 Speaker | 3/4 glory is like the flowers of the field. | 4/4 The grass withers and the flowers fall, | 5/4 because the breath of the Lord blows on them. | 2/4

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

Speaker $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ \uparrow Surely the people are grass. \uparrow The grass withers and the flowers fall, \uparrow but the word of our God stands

(confidently) *cresc. poco a poco* (majestically)

Resolutely (♩ = 100)

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

Speaker

8^{va}

8^{va}

8^{va}

8^{va}

8^{va}

forever.

Lift up your

f *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Transparent (♩ = 90)

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

voice with a shout, lift it up do not be afraid.

Speaker

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

Passionately

The musical score consists of six staves. Harp 1 and Harp 2 play arpeggiated chords and melodic lines. Piano 1 and Piano 2 provide harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The Voice part features a vocal line with lyrics. The Speaker part contains the lyrics with musical notation for emphasis and phrasing.

Speaker | Who has measured | the waters in the hollow of his hand, | or with the breadth | of his hand marked off the heavens? ||

46 47 48 49 50 51 52

Harp 1
p *f* *mp cresc.* *ff* *expressivo*

Harp 2
f *mp cresc.* *ff* *mf*

Piano 1
mf *cresc.* *f* *p sub.*

Piano 2
mp *mp* *mf cresc.* *f* *ff* *p sub.*

Voice
f espressivo *f* *mp* *f*

Speaker
 ↑ Who has held the dust
(wondrously)
mp cresc.

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

Speaker of the earth in a basket, | or weighed the mountains on the scales | and the hills in a balance? | Who has comprehended the mind of the Lord, (sincerely curious)

Harp 1
 Harp 2
 Piano 1
 Piano 2
 Voice
 Speaker

sim.
f *ff* *mf* *ff* *sfz* *pp*
rit.

f *sfz* *f* *ff* *mf* *ff* *sfz* *pp*
f *ff* *mf* *ff* *sfz* *pp*

or showed him the path of understanding?

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

Driving (♩ = 152)

The musical score is arranged in six systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a label on the left:

- Harp 1:** Features melodic lines with dynamic markings *mf* or as loud as possible, *mf*, and *f*.
- Harp 2:** Features melodic lines with dynamic markings *mf* or as loud as possible, *sfz*, and *mf*.
- Piano 1:** Features a complex rhythmic accompaniment with dynamic markings *f*, *mp sub.*, *sfz*, and *f*.
- Piano 2:** Features a complex rhythmic accompaniment with dynamic markings *f*, *mp sub.*, *sfz*, and *f*.
- Voice:** A single staff with rests throughout this section.
- Speaker:** Contains the lyrics: "Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded". The word "Surely" is marked *f* (forcefully).

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

Speaker $\frac{4}{4}$ as dust on the scales. | $\frac{3}{4}$ \uparrow Before God,
 (emphatically) | $\frac{4}{4}$ all the nations | are as nothing; | $\frac{3}{4}$ \uparrow they are

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

Suddenly Slower
Somewhat Freely (♩ = 60)

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

Speaker

regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing. To whom, then, will you compare God? Lift your eyes and look to the heavens Who created all

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

In Tempo
Cantando (♩ = 60)

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

Speaker

The score consists of six staves. Harp 1 and Harp 2 play arpeggiated patterns in 3/4 time, with dynamics ranging from *pp* to *p*. Piano 1 plays a continuous sixteenth-note accompaniment, marked *pp* and *una corda*. Piano 2 provides harmonic support with chords, also marked *pp* and *una corda*. The Voice part begins in measure 93 with the lyrics "these?" and continues through measure 98 with "He who brings out the star-ry host one by one, and calls them each by name." The Speaker part shows the 3/4 time signature.

93

94

95

96

97

98

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

Speaker

Be - cause of his great pow - er and migh - ty strength not one of them is miss - ing miss - ing

99 100 101 102 103 104

Abruptly Faster Ferociously

(♩ = 120)

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

Speaker

4 | 5 | 4 | 3/4 | 4 | 3/4 | 3/4

f [Do you not know? (amazedly) | Have you not heard? | Has it not been told to you | from the beginning? | Have you not understood |

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

Speaker

since the earth was founded? | [↑]He sits _(explicatively) | enthroned above the circle of the earth | and its people are like grasshoppers. | He brings princes to naught and reduces | the rulers of this world to nothing.

112

113

114

115

116

117

118

119

120

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

Speaker

$\frac{3}{4}$ | No sooner are they planted, $\frac{4}{4}$ | no sooner are they sown, $\frac{3}{4}$ | no sooner do they take root in the ground, $\frac{4}{4}$ | than ^{he} blows on them $\frac{3}{4}$ | and a whirlwind | sweeps them away $\frac{3}{8}$ | like chaff. $\frac{4}{4}$

(spasmodically) *(explicitly)*

120

121

122

123

124

125

126

127

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

Speaker

8^{va}

"Hollywood" gliss.

n *sfz*

n *sfz* *n* *sfz* *n* *sfz* *n* *sfz*

f *ff* *f* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *f* *fff*

f *ff* *mf* *ff* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *f* *fff*

f *n*

ah - e

Do you not know?
(distractively)
ff

Have you not heard?

128

129

130

131

132

Peacefully $\text{♩} = 60$

8^{va}

Harp 1

pp sub. *p* *pp* *p*

8^{va}

Harp 2

pp *p* *pp* *p*

Piano 1

p *pp* *p*

8^{vb}

Piano 2

p sub. *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Voice

Speaker

$\frac{4}{4}$

↑ The Lord is the everlasting God,
(calmly)
p

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
(reassuringly)

133

134

135

136

137

Harp 1

Harp 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

Voice

Speaker

and his understanding no one can fathom.

Cry_ ou cry ou - - - ah cry_ ou cry ou - - - ah

He gives strength to the weary
(hopefully)
mp

Harp 1
 Harp 2
 Piano 1
 Piano 2
 Voice

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

mf p mp

e - ah - - - - - oh - - - - - cry ou - - - - - ah

Speaker and increases the power of the weak. | ↑ Even youths grow tired and weary (positively) | and young men stumble and fall; | ↑ But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. (encouragingly) mf

Distant

The musical score is arranged in a vertical system with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Harp 1:** Treble clef, dynamic markings *p*, *pp*, *ppp*, *n*. Includes a trill at the start and a sixteenth-note run at the end.
- Harp 2:** Treble clef, dynamic markings *pp*, *mp*, *p*. Includes a seven-note run at the start and a triplet.
- Piano 1:** Bass clef, dynamic markings *p*, *pp*, *ppp*, *n*. Features triplet patterns and a sixteenth-note run.
- Piano 2:** Bass clef, dynamic markings *mp*, *mf*, *pp*, *n*. Includes a glissando instruction and a brush strings instruction.
- Voice:** Treble clef, dynamic markings *p*, *p*, *mp*, *p*, *n*. Includes lyrics and melodic lines.
- Speaker:** Lyrics and dynamic markings *p*.

Performance instructions include "Let Ring" at the end of several staves and "brush strings with thumb" for Piano 2. Dynamic markings range from *ppp* (pianississimo) to *n* (normal).

↑ They will | soar on wings like eagles; | they will run | and not grow weary, | they will walk | and not be faint.
(lightly) (nearly a whisper)

147

148

149

150

151

152