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**Ashes to Ashes**  
SAB Choir, Keyboard, Guitar,  
Oboe, Cello, Assembly

Dan Schutte

# **CHORAL SERIES**

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## **Ashes to Ashes**

Dan Schutte

Preview

# Ashes to Ashes

Based on Lenten liturgical texts

Dan Schutte

## INTRO *Moderato* (♩ = ca. 92)

Keyboard *mf*

Gm F/A B♭ Csus4 C

## REFRAIN (*Tempo I*)

*rit.* Soprano *mp a tempo*

Alto

Ash - es to ash - es, from dust un - to

*rit.* Baritone *mp a tempo*

B♭/D F F C/E Dm

*rit.* *mp a tempo*

dust. The cross on our fore - head, your prom - ise, O God.

Am/C B♭ F/A Gm Csus4 C

*mf* Read - y us to fol - low the way of your Son, \_\_\_\_\_ to *f*

*mf* *f*

F C/E Dm Gm Csus4 C D7/F#



*mf* rise from these ash - es, re - deemed in the fire of your

*mf* *mf*

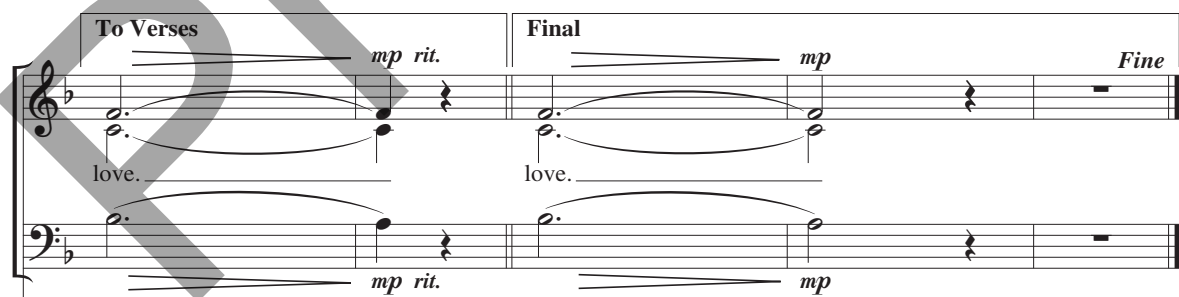
Gm F/A Bb Csus4 C



To Verses *mp rit.* Final *mp* *Fine*

love. love.

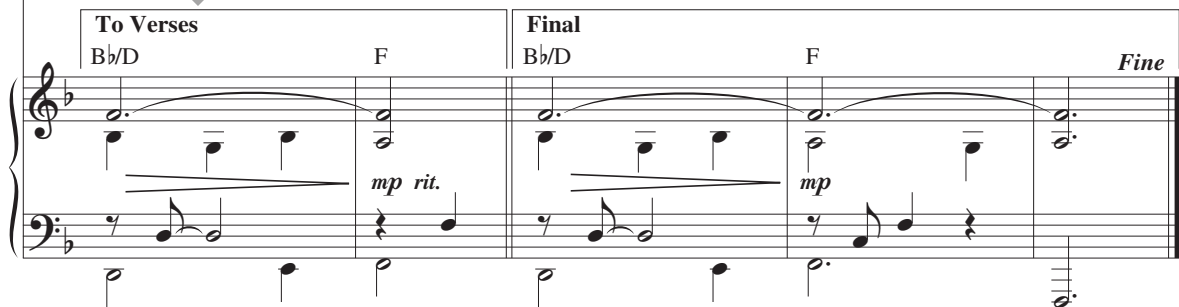
*mp rit.* *mp*



To Verses Final *Fine*

Bb/D F Bb/D F

*mp rit.* *mp*



VERSES: Ash Wednesday *Slower, with rubato* (♩ = ca. 88)

*mf*

1. Sound the trum - pet in Zi - on, an - nounce from the Lord that the  
 2. Rend your hearts, not your gar - ments; re - turn to the Lord, who de -  
 3. We have seen in the heav - ens and held in our arms what the  
 4. Let us fast from un - kind - ness and turn from our greed, giv - ing  
 5. Though this life that we trea - sure must fade like the grass, heav - en's

*mf*

B $\flat$  Csus4 C Am Dm

*D.S.*

1. day of God's fa - vor is ev - er close at hand. (Joel 2:1)  
 2. lights when we of - fer a tru - ly hum - ble heart. (Joel 2:13)  
 3. hand of our Mak - er can fash - ion out of dust.  
 4. bread to the hun - gry and lift - ing up the poor. (Isaiah 58:6-7)  
 5. glo - ry a - waits those who put their trust in God. (Psalm 37:2-3)

Gm F/A B $\flat$  E $\flat$  C *D.S.*

VERSES: Throughout Lent *Slower, with rubato* (♩ = ca. 88)

*mf*

1. We a - bide in the shad - ow of God's might - y arm, \_\_\_ for the  
 2. As the high - est of heav - ens sur - pass - es the earth, \_\_\_ so the  
 3. Though his na - ture is ho - ly yet Christ be - came sin, \_\_\_ so that

*mf*

*mf*

B $\flat$  Csus4 C Am Dm

*D.S.*

1. Lord is our ref - uge, the Rock in whom we trust. \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 91:2)  
 2. might of God's mer - cy is far be - yond our shame. \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 103:11)  
 3. we might in - her - it the ho - li - ness of God. \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Gm F/A B $\flat$  E $\flat$  C *D.S.*

# Ashes to Ashes

(Guitar/Vocal)

Based on Lenten liturgical texts

Dan Schutte

**INTRO** *Moderato* (♩ = ca. 92)

Capo 3: (Em) (D/F#) (G) (Asus4) (A) (G/B) (D)  
*mf* Gm F/A B♭ Csus4 C B♭/D F *rit.*

(Kbd)

**REFRAIN** (*Tempo I*)

(D) (A/C#) (Bm) (F#m/A) (G)  
 F C/E Dm Am/C B♭  
*mp a tempo*

Ash - es to ash - es, from dust un - to dust. The cross on our

(D/F#) (Em) (Asus4) (A) (D) (A/C#)  
 F/A Gm Csus4 C F C/E  
*mf*

fore - head, your prom - ise, O God. Read - y us to fol - low the

(Bm) (Em) (Asus4) (A) (B7/D#) (Em) (D/F#) (G)  
 Dm Gm Csus4 C D7/F# Gm F/A B♭  
*f* *mf*

way of your Son, to rise from these ash - es, re - deemed in the

(Asus4) Csus4	(A) C	<b>To Verses</b> (G/B) B♭/D	(D) F	<b>Final</b> (G/B) B♭/D	(D) F	<i>Fine</i>
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fire of your love. love.

*mp rit.* *mp*

VERSES: Ash Wednesday *Slower, with rubato* (♩ = ca. 88)

*mf*

(G) (Asus4) (A) (F#m) (Bm)  
B♭ Csus4 C Am Dm

1. Sound the trum - pet in Zi - on, an - nounce from the Lord that the  
2. Rend your hearts, not your gar - ments; re - turn to the Lord, who de -  
3. We have seen in the heav - ens and held in our arms what the  
4. Let us fast from un - kind - ness and turn from our greed, giv - ing  
5. Though this life that we trea - sure must fade like the grass, heav - en's

(Em) (D/F#) (G) (C) (A)  
Gm F/A B♭ E♭ C D.S.

1. day of God's fa - vor is ev - er close at hand. \_\_\_\_\_ (Joel 2:1)  
2. lights when we of - fer a tru - ly hum - ble heart. \_\_\_\_\_ (Joel 2:13)  
3. hand of our Mak - er can fash - ion out of dust. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. bread to the hun - gry and lift - ing up the poor. \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 58:6-7)  
5. glo - ry a - waits those who put their trust in God. \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 37:2-3)

VERSES: Throughout Lent *Slower, with rubato* (♩ = ca. 88)

*mf*

(G) (Asus4) (A) (F#m) (Bm)  
B♭ Csus4 C Am Dm

1. We a - bide in the shad - ow of God's might - y arm, for the  
2. As the high - est of heav - ens sur - pass - es the earth, so the  
3. Though his na - ture is ho - ly yet Christ be - came sin, so that

(Em) (D/F#) (G) (C) (A)  
Gm F/A B♭ E♭ C D.S.

1. Lord is our ref - uge, the Rock in whom we trust. \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 91:2)  
2. might of God's mer - cy is far be - yond our shame. \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 103:11)  
3. we might in - her - it the ho - li - ness of God. \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 5:21)

# Ashes to Ashes

OBOE

Dan Schutte  
 Arr. by Gerard Chiusano

INTRO *Moderato* (♩ = ca. 92)

REFRAIN

*a tempo*

17

*rit.*

VERSE 1: *Slower, with rubato* (♩ = ca. 88)

9

REFRAIN: *Tempo I<sup>o</sup>*

*a tempo*

VERSE 2: *Slower, with rubato* (♩ = ca. 88)

REFRAIN: *Tempo I<sup>o</sup>*

*a tempo*

VERSE 3: *Slower, with rubato* (♩ = ca. 88)

FINAL REFRAIN: *Tempo I<sup>o</sup>*

*a tempo*



# Ashes to Ashes

CELLO

Dan Schutte  
Arr. by Gerard Chiusano

INTRO *Moderato* (♩ = ca. 92)

REFRAIN

VERSE 1: *Slower, with rubato* (♩ = ca. 88)

REFRAIN: *Tempo I<sup>o</sup>*

VERSE 2: *Slower, with rubato* (♩ = ca. 88)

REFRAIN: *Tempo I<sup>o</sup>*  
*a tempo*

VERSE 3: *Slower, with rubato* (♩ = ca. 88)

FINAL REFRAIN: *Tempo I<sup>o</sup>*  
*a tempo*

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\*When more than three verses are to be sung, repeat to any of the previous refrains.

Preview

# Composer Notes

In the liturgy of Ash Wednesday, “Ashes to ashes, dust unto dust” refers to the Hebrew scripture passage “By the sweat of your brow shall you make bread to eat, until you return to the earth from which you were taken. For you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). But for those who have faith in Jesus Christ, God never leaves us in the dust and ashes of death, because we will share in the glory of the Resurrection.

The ashes are placed on our forehead in the form of a cross, the sign of Christ’s victory over death. But this is not the only time during our journey of faith that we are signed on our forehead with a cross; the same happens in Baptism, in Confirmation, and in the Anointing of the Sick. We are marked with a cross to show that we belong to God, to the People of God. That cross is no longer a curse, but the sign of God’s blessing.

The prayer we begin on Ash Wednesday continues throughout the Lenten season. We ask God to prepare us to follow the way of his Son, the way that takes us through Passion and Death into the glory of the Resurrection. We pray that God may raise us from the ashes of our lives, by redeeming us in the fire of his love. God’s love, like the refiner’s fire, purifies us so that we may shine with glory of new life in Christ. It is this love, a love that can never allow death to have the final word, that will raise us up, just as it did Jesus, from the dust and ashes of death.

Many of the verses are based on the lectionary texts for the season of Lent. The scripture references have been included at the end of each verse. When used on the Sundays of Lent, the alternate verses may be used, as well as those designated for Ash Wednesday. The verses should be performed at a slightly slower tempo, with significant rubato between the phrases. And when venturing back into the refrain, rather than using a crescendo, this piece actually employs a decrescendo. The refrain begins with a rather gentle and tender mood, but builds toward the lyric “the way of your Son, to rise,” which is the high point of the text.

—Dan Schutte

Preview

## Assembly Edition

### ASHES TO ASHES

Dan Schutte



Ash - es to ash - es, from dust un - to dust. The



cross on our fore - head, your prom - ise, O God.



Read - y us to fol - low the way of your Son, to rise from these



ash - es, re - deemed in the fire of your love.

Verses: Ash Wednesday



1. Sound the trum - pet in Zi - on, an - nounce from the Lord
2. Rend your hearts, not your gar - ments; re - turn to the Lord,
3. We have seen in the heav - ens and held in our arms
4. Let us fast from un - kind - ness and turn from our greed,
5. Though this life that we trea - sure must fade like the grass,



1. that the day of God's fa - vor is ev - er close at hand.
2. who de - lights when we of - fer a tru - ly hum - ble heart.
3. what the hand of our Mak - er can fash - ion out of dust.
4. giv - ing bread to the hun - gry and lift - ing up the poor.
5. heav - en's glo - ry a - waits those who put their trust in God.

Verses: Throughout Lent



1. We a - bide in the shad - ow of God's might - y arm, for the
2. As the high - est of heav - ens sur - pass - es the earth, so the
3. Though his na - ture is ho - ly yet Christ be - came sin, so that



1. Lord is our ref - uge, the Rock in whom we trust.
2. might of God's mer - cy is far be - yond our shame.
3. we might in - her - it the ho - li - ness of God.

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